THE INDEPENDENT

45p No 3,433

They don't vote: Labour's U-turn on animal testing

Tony Blair is to break a pre-election pledge to reduce the number of animals used in experiments, including testing of new cosmetics. The U-turn, Jason Bennetto writes, is just one of a лиmber of broken promises involving the treatment of animals.

Government funding to develop alternatives to using live animals for experiments is to be axed by nearly a quarter, it will be disclosed this week. Labour has also reneged on promises to set up a Royal Commission into the issue of animal experiments, it is understood.

And experiments on animals to test new cosmetics are to continue, despite a promise by Tony Blair during the general election that they would be scrapped.

The policy changes will be revealed in a official report published this week. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, will say that there appears to be "nn realistic prospect in the foreseeable future" of an end to animal experimentation

Anti-vivisection and animal rights grnups will be dismayed at the news.

EXCLUSIVE

About 2,800 animals were used last year to test cosmetics, mostly rabbits, guinea pigs and rats, to discover whether they caused problems such as irritation to skin and eyes, and side effects on reproductive organs. The vast bulk of animals - 2.7million last year - are used for medical research, and testing pharmaceuticals and equipment such as chemical and biological warfare suits.

Labour's electioneering document, New Life For Animals, which was signed by Tony Blair, said: "Labour is totally committed to stopping cosmetic testing on animals. We are appalled that it was the UK government that watered down European Parliament tal number of animal tests in the future. moves to ban cosmetic testing, which could delay the implementation of a ban. creasingly frustrated with the Govern-Cosmetics can now be tested by nnn- ment. Barry Horne, a remand prisoner in animal methods, and the beauty business Bristol Prison who is charged with possessing already has at its disposal a huge range of explosive devices, has held two hunger strike perfectly safe ingredients."

The document, which was not part of promises on animal experimentation. the Manifesto, added: "We will support a Royal Commission to review the effec- Support Campaign said: "We are totally distiveness and justification of animal experiments and to examine alternatives." It also promised to work towards reducing the

total number of animals used in tests. It is understood that an interim report by the Home Office's Animal Procedures Committee, that contains medical experts, welfare workers and lawyers, will be published

The report, all the recommendations of which have been accepted by the Home Secretary, will say that cosmetic testing must go ahead until there are more non-animal alternatives. The report concludes that new legislation is not needed.

The budget to pay for new research into finding alternatives is being cut next year by £60,000 to £197,000. The Animal Procedures Committee is understood to be extremely angry at the reduction.

But the Home Office is to increase the number of inspectors used to check laboratories and breeding farms, and introduce a toughened code of practice, and hetter training for animal workers. Anyone using animals will also have to give details of what nnn-animal alternatives it has considered.

Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office minister responsible for animals, has ruled out a Royal Commission.

It is understood that ministers have been convinced that banning animal experiments would have a damaging effect nn industry, would hinder medical breakthroughs and is likely to result in animal experiments taking place in less regulated countries.

In response to the report, Jack Straw will say: "Whilst the Government looks forward to the time when animals will not need to be used in scientific procedures, there appears no realistic prospect that this will be possible in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, it is essential that animals are only used where this is fully justified and where suitable alternatives are not available."

He says that although the failure to ban testing of cosmetic products may "disappoint" many critics that it is important to "balance the likely costs to animals against the benefits to man, animals or the environment."

While the number of "normal" animals being used in experiments has declined significantly the growth in the use of genetically modified animals has increased sharply. This could lead to an acceleration in the to-

Animal rights' groups have become inin protest at Government pre-election

A spokeswoman for the Barry Horne gusted that the Government has gone back on its pledge ... we hoped that Labour would keep their word."



Tiny tears: The eyes of a laboratory rabbit show the reality of testing cosmetics for irritability on animals

INSIDE TODAY

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How the Pre-Raphaelites got a bad name



WEATHER The Eye, page 10. TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9

Web address: http://www.

TODAY'S OTHER NEWS

Market tumble on **Brown Monday**

The city dubbed it Brown Monday as the markets turnbled in response to Gordon Brown's uncertain position on the European single currency. It provided a difficult background for Tony Blair's five-hour meeting with the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, at Chequers. For his part. Mr Brown promised to come clean in a statement to the Commons next week. Page 6

Cancer smear shake-up

Cervical smear testing faces a national shake-up after an independent inquiry found serious failings in a Kent hospital which had to recall more than 90,000 women for testing. Page 5

Russell murder charge

A 37-year-old man was charged last night with the murders of Lin and Megan Russell and the attempted murder of Josie Russell. Michael Stone, 37, Gillingham, will appear before Medway magistrates at Chatham this

The killings of Mrs Russell, 45, and her daughter Megan, six, in July 1996 shocked the nation. They were bludgeoned to death in a country lane near the village of Chillenden, Kent. Megan's sister Josie, now 10, survived

Angst of Nineties Man

Nineties Man is angst-ridden, confused and selfish according to a survey prepared for the advertising industry by the Henley Centre for Forecasting. The researchers found that "New Man" is a figment of women's imaginations, while "New Lad" is a way of avoiding responsibilities. Page 9

Care link to suicides

Suicide rates among young men who had been in care in North Wales children's homes were 19 times the national average. Page 3

Kidnap: 'Saudis to blame'

Saudi Arabia is behind the kidnapping of Henry Thompson, a British aid worker held by tribesmen in the mountains of Yemen, according to senior Yemeni officials. They have accused their northern neighbours of trying to use the abductions as a means of destabilising its relations with other countries. Page 3

Literacy aim for schools

Schools and local education authorities in deprived areas will no longer be able to plead poverty as a reason for low achievement, the government has said. It wants to to ensure 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reach the required standards within the lifetime of this parliament Page 8

Forsyth to retire

Frederick Forsyth, whose thrillers such as The Day of the lackal and The Dogs of War, have sold millions, has decided not to write any more novels...

SEEN & HEARD

Wanted - 100 volunteers with bad breath, must not mind repeatedly breathing out while other people wrinkle their noses in the name of research. Scientists at the Faculty of Applied Science at the University of West England, are hoping the human guinea pigs will help them find a cure for halitosis by 2001. They will be required to breathe into a sensor system which will reveal the compounds that cause the problem, then the experts will try and identify what can be done. Let's hope 100 best friends are prepared to tell a few home truths in the interests of medicine.

MOUTH WATERING OYSTERS. (BUT NOT FROM OUR FOOD HALL.)



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COLUMN ONE

To join or not to join? Fingernails pay the price

Diana, Princes of Wales did it. The singer Gloria Estefan boasted recently that she had given it up, but Gordon Brown still does it to excess. The Chancellor's badly-bitten finger uails mark him out as as a man "out of control", according to one expert who was approached for comment on the subject yesterday.

Amid the furore over the future of the pound and the whirl of accusations and counter-accusations about what Mr Brown's spin-doctors did or did not say, a really serious issue has emerged; why are the Chancellor's nails bitten to the quick? Is the man in charge of the nation's finances suppressing rising feelings of panic by chewing off the ends of his own fingers? The nation clearly deserves to be told.

As Mr Brown launched a new electronic trading system for the Stock Exchange and failed again to explain the Government's position on the single currency, the attention of some of the journalists present was clear-



ly wandering. Within hours, Carv Cooper, the ubiquitous professor of psychology from the University of Manchester's Institute of Science and Technology, had been brought to the phone to express his fears for the Chancellor.

Confusion over the single market was clearly causing Mr Brown a great deal of anxiety, he told the Press Association.

"It seems whatever be does or savs be is damned. He is stuck in the middle of an awful mess and is trying to balance an enormous number of factors at once. Chewing nails is very common for people like him who feel stressed and out of control."

Reaching for a bottle of foultasting paint-on repellent was not the answer, he added. The trouble was, the habit which had reduced Mr Brown's nails to mere stubs was "a reflection of stress and unhappiness." What he needed was a holiday. Given that the Parliamentary recess ends next week, he seemed highly unlikely to get one. Asked whether Mr Brown was "a man out of control," the Chancellor's spokesman refused to comment. Watch this space.

CALLING ALL STUDENTS

This Friday, The Independent will be publishing the first part of The Higher Education Guide, a direct and down to earth guide to the universities and colleges you may be applying for next year.

Geared towards everyone planning to go into higher education, as well as an aid for parents and careers advisers, the guide offers

concise descriptions of universities and higher education colleges throughout Britain. It is distilled from The Student Book 1998, published by Trotman.

The second part of the Guide will appear on Friday October 31. These dates replace those that we gave in the UCAN guide.

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PEOPLE



Mothers' Union snubs Christine Hamilton

First there was Mohamed Al Fayed, then came Martin Bell, and now Neil and Christine Hamilton are facing a opposition from a new quarter - The Mothers' Union. The organisation of Christian women, epitomising the values of middle England, almost achieved what so many others had failed to do, shut up Mrs Hamilton.

Just a few days before Mrs Hamilton was due to launch her Bumper Book of British Battleaxes at the Mothers' Union premises, they decided it would not be "suitable", effectively leaving her without a platform. Even a personal appeal by Mrs Hamilton failed

to sway the MU. Eventually frantic last minute efforts by the publishers, Robson Books, managed to secure an alternative venue for the launch tomorrow night. Both Mrs Hamilton and her publishers are furious at what

The cancellation took place towards the end of last week. Neil Hamilton said yesterday: "Obviously we are not happy about it. There is nothing in the book which could be deemed to be offensive or upsetting, quite the contrary. Christine went to see them herself, to ask if she was the problem, and they said

that was not the case. I don't know if they have been nobbled or not, I have got no evidence to support that, but it does seem very unfair".

Charlotte Bush, of Robson Books, said: "I am absolutely furious. There was no justification for this. The cancellation took place at a very late stage, and it could have ruined everything".

The Mothers' Union remained unrepentant. An executive, who refused to give her name, was adamant: "This simply was not suitable for us, we did not want that kind of publicity. When the publishers made the booking they did not say what it was for, and this is not the right venue for such a

The launch is going ahead at the St James's Court Hotel, just a stone's throw from the offices of lohbyist Ian Greer, where Mrs Hamilton once worked, and who could be said to be the author of some of her busband's misfortune.

It is also near the Commons, where Mr Hamilton, in front of the privileges committee, last week accused Mr Fayed of breaking into Tiny Rowland's safety deposit box at Harrods.

---- Kim Sengupta

The Cold War jackal calls it a day



Frederick Forsyth, the best-selling writer known for his right-wing politics, announced yesterday that he is retiring from novel-writing.

Forsyth, left, whose rohust Cold-War-era thrillers such as The Day of the Jackal and The Dogs of War powered him to the top ence in Blackpool speaking nf the best-seller lists in the Sevagainst a federal Europe. enties, has decided to concentrate journalism hecause, he says. smith's Referendum Party but anthere are no interesting plots left. nnunced just before the last

Forsyth, said before he finished his tenth novel, leon, that t would fulfil his contractual obligations and so be his last. That novel has just been published and Forsyth confirmed yesterday that he will stick to his pledge unless exceptinnal circumstances made him to return to the genre: "I do not want to write any more political thrillers. Nothing else interests me, there are no other books, told a Swedish newspaper subjects that need to be covered the Cold War is well over.

ryline that grabbed me, wouldn't 60, so why not me?" leave me alone and had to be

written, to persuade me to return. But that's very unlikely."

Instead, Forsyth's interests have been moving in the direction of nationalist politics. He was last seen at a fringe meeting at the Conservative Party confer-Last year, the novelist flirted

election that he would vote for the Tories when he walked into the polling booth, despite feeling their policies on Europe were fatally flawed. Mr Forsyth also appeared as a defender of the Royal Family on Carlton Television's infamous and riotous televised monarchy dehate.

Forsyth, 59, who is estimated to have sold over 50 million that it was best to quit while he was still reasonably successful: "A "There would have to be a sto- lot of guys retire when they are

— Poul McCann

UPDATE

NUTRITION

Sports drinks 'a waste of money'

Many so-called "sports" and "energy" drinks are little more than sugarladen soft drinks packed with a cocktail of additives, the Food Commis sion claimed yesterday. Most people would be better off munching a banana or drinking fruit juice to boost their energy after a work-out, the independent consumer watchdog said in a report.

In a survey of 22 drinks, the commission found they contained up to 19 teaspoons of sugar in a serving, while many relied on high levels of cast feine to provide an "energy rush". Many of the drinks, often costing around. £1.50 each, are promoted as diet supplements for athletes, for after-workout drinks or a part of a sports training programme. The report said that despite high sugar levels in the drinks, only five gave specific measure ments for sugar-content while many listed it simply as "carbohydrale".

Rejecting the Food Commission's criticisms, the industry claimed sugar in itself was not bad for people and was present in many foods, including mother's breast milk and fruit. Christine Milburn of the British Soft Drinks Association said they were intended to be taken as part of a balanced diet. Some drinks covered in the survey were not "sports" drinks at all, particularly berbal ones, which were marketed as adult soft drinks, she in-_ Genda Cooper -



INDUSTRY

Britain's car production up

A total of 145,202 cars were made in the UK last month, compared with 140,103 in September last year, the Office for National Statistics said yesterday. The number made for export rose from 90,232 in September 1996 to 91,781 last month, while the number produced for the home market was up from 49,871 to 53,421.

Commercial vehicles also had a good month, with production rising from 20,021 in September 1996 to 23,072 last month.

EMPLOYMENT

Offices suffering from brain drain

Workers in some parts of Britain are less qualified than four years ago even though training is becoming increasingly important for office staff, a new report showed yesterday.

Firms will employ fewer clerical and secretarial workers in future, but the number of highly qualified professional and technical staff will increase, according to research for the GMB general union.

Most regions have workers with better qualifications than four years ago, but in four - Gwent, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Northumberland and Central Scotland - staff are less qualified, the report found. The fastest growth in qualifications has been in Hereford and Worcester, Berkshire, the Isle of Wight, Dumfries and Galloway, Dyfed, Cambridgeshire

The highest level of qualifications were found in the Lothian region of Scotland, followed by Surrey, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Tayside, Grampian and Avon. The lowest levels were in Gwent, Mid Glamorgan, West Mid-

sex, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Clwyd, Cleveland and the Isle of Wig The report was based on the number of workers with NVQ or SVQ

TOURIST RATES

		ltaly (lira)
Australia (dollars)	2.15	Japan (yen)
Austria (schillings)	19.70	Malta (lira)
Belgium (francs)	57.86	Netherlands (guilders)
Canada (\$)	2.21	Norway (kroner)
Cyprus (pounds)	0.82	Portugal (escudos)
Denmark (kroner)	10.74	Spain (pesctas)
France (francs)	9.39	Sweden (kroner)
Germany (marks)	2.81	Switzerland (francs)
Greece (drachmei)	442.72	Turkey (lira)
Hong Kong (\$)	12.22	USA (\$)
Ireland (punts)	1.08	Source:
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by Chris Priestley

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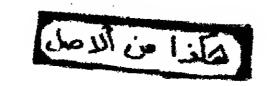
by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman











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3/LEADING STORIES



Twitchers flock for a sight of Siberia

Bird watchers gathering on the Dorset coast yesterday in the hope of seeing the rare Siberian rubythroat, which has been hlown thousands of miles off course.

A sighting on Sunday in a field near the Smugglers Inn in Osmington Mills near Weymouth sent twitchers scurrying to the south coast, but by mid-morning Hazel Millington of the Bird Information Service reported that there had been no sign of the hird.

There has been just one previous sighting of this rohin-like bird in Britain - on Fair Isic between Orkney and Shetland in 1975. East winds are thought to have drifted it to the UK after it lost its way while migrat-

ing from Siberia tn south east Asia. It is the most unusual of a spate of Siberian migrants which have turned up mainly on Britain's east and south coasts over recent days - including yellow-browed Pallas's and Radde's warblers.

Photograph: Tom Pilston

Yemen points finger at Saudis over kidnappings

Saudi Arabia is behind the kidnapping of Henry Thompson, a British aid worker held by tribesmen in the mountains of Yemen, according to senior Yemeni officials. Patrick Cockburn reports from the capital, Sana'a, on the wave of kidnappings of foreigners - and why Saudi Arabia may wish to destabilise its southern neighbour.

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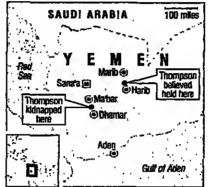
The kidnapping of Henry Thompson last Wednesday as he drove through the central highlands of Yemen was a political act inspired by Saudi Arabia, Yemeni officials have told The Independent. They dismiss claims by the tribesmen, who have taken Mr Thompson to their stronghold south east of the capital, that they abducted him to draw attention to their social grievances.

Dr Abdul Karim al-Eryani, the Foreign Minister of Yemen, a poor but populous country in the south of the Arabian peninsula, says that the aim of the kidnapping of Mr Thompson, a 38-year-old specialist

in water projects from Eastbourne, and more than 30 other foreigners this year, is to destabilise his country. He says that whenever Yemen seeks closer relations with a European country, one of their nationals is immediately kidnapped. He points out that "a week after it was known that [Yemeni] President Saleh would make his first official visit to London on 11 November, a Briton was kidnapped."

Diplomats in Sana a are less certain that the kidnappers fine-tune their abductions, which have hitherto targeted visitors from France, Italy and Germany, to frustrate Yemen's search for potential allies. But they suspect that Saudi Arabia, which has long had strained relations with Yemen, does play a role in the kidnappings by funding the tribesmen who seize foreigners. One diplomat said: "It is not clear if this is official Saudi policy or the pet project of certain Saudi princes."

If Saudi Arahia has played a role in the kidnapping of Mr Thompson, it is likely to exacerbate ill feeling between Britain and the Saudis, with whom relations are already tense because of the trial of the two British nurses, Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, accused of murder.



Dr Eryani, Interviewed in the foreign ministry in Sana'a, says that the demands of the kidnappers for better water supply, a clinic and an improved road to their district are "camouflage". Asked if there was any way of stopping the abductions, he said: "With external instigation what can we do?" He added that the tribesmen involved act as mercenaries, in the pay of the main Yemeni opposition group, the Mowj, which is supported by Saudi Arabia.

Dr Eryani admits that he has no direct proof that the kidnappings are orchestrated by Saudi Arabia, but other officials, who wish to remain anonymnus, say they have no doubts about Saudi support. One said: "If you ask any Yemeni politician or man in the street he will say that Saudi Arahia is behind it." He added that the first kidnappings of foreigners occurred in 1990 when north and south Yemen first united.

This was seen as a threatening development by Saudi Arabia, where policy towards Yemen is normally handled by Prince Sultan hin Abd al-Aziz, the defence minister. In 1994, Prince Sultan led the way in supporting the secession of southern Yemen which was crushed by President Saleh in a brief civil war which left severthe two countries is also in dispute.

Henry Thompson, an aid worker doing research for the Japan International Cooperation Agency, was seized by tribesmen of the Bani Zabyan tribe six days ago. Charles Thompson, speaking by phone from Britain, told The Independent that his brother had been "an aid worker for the last five or 10 years. He has spent much esc for the last one and a half years." He returned from Yemen from seeing his family in Britain two weeks ago. When cap-



al thousand dead. The long border between Henry Thompson: Missing aid worker

tured he was driving with his Yemeni translator on the main road, 60 miles south of Sana'a, when he is believed to have been stopped somewhere hetween the towns of Dhamar and Ma'bar.

He was then taken east, to the mountains south of the city of Marib, where govtime in Africa and worked for the Japan- erament control is particularly weak. As with previous kidnappings, the interior ministry in Sana'a immediately started negotiatioos and was reported to have

"sealed-off the area". In practice this means that the government has put military checkpoints on the very few roads in and out of the region.

The Yemeni government, while privately convinced that Saudi Arabia is behind the kidnappings, also wants to play them down, in order not to frighten off tourists or lead to the withdrawal of foreign aid workers. Yemen's 17 million people are among the poorest in the world, with a per capita income of less than \$500 a year. The economy has stagnated since the Saudis expelled 850,000 Yemeni workers in 1990 because it considered Yemen too sympathetic to Iraq.

Last weekend, the Yemeni interior ministry received a letter from Mr Thompson to his family saying he was "well treated, well fed and comfortable." The ministry added its own gloss, that he was "in good health and enjoying himself." None of those kidnapped recently have been killed or injured, though the driver of a German doctor was killed earlier this month when three men tried to abduct her. Dr Eryani says he believes that foreign governments recognise that what is happening "is a political act. It is not a breakdown of law and order. Instead the object is to smear the country."

Suicide rates at children's homes were 19 times national average

Suicide rates among young men who had been in care in North Wales children's homes was 19 times the national average. Roger Dobson examines evidence drawn up for the tribunal of inquiry into the abuse scandal.

Research by an academic and social services specialist also discovered that the rate for violent deaths of people who had been in the homes was seven times the norm.

The accidental death rate was eight times higher than normal for that age group, according to the study of deaths of young people who had passed through the care system in Clwyd.

The analysis compiled by Professor Colin Pritchard of Southampton University and John Jillings, who led the first major inquiry into ahuse in Clwyd, looked at 13 deaths of

men died in the early 1990s, at around the times of the council and police investigations into abuse and the subsequent

The analysis by Professor Pritchard and Mr Jillings, which has been sent to the North Wales tribunal, looked at a oumber of deaths of young people and compared that with what would be expected in a similar population. They took into account the population . and throughput of children's homes and the time span.

It is not clear whether the evidence will be admitted to the tribunal headed by a High Court judge: Sir Ronald Waterhouse. A spokesman for the inquiry said last night: "We have the details and they will be considered in due course. We cannot at this stage say whether or not it will be admitted as evi-

What they found was that the suicide rate was 19 times the national average and the analysis says that in order to err oo young men in Clwyd for their the side of caution, the Clwyd

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

FASHION

the Royal Court

research. Nearly half the young data was compared with the timuum of misery experienced male suicide and morality figures from 1992, a year which had the highest rate of male sui-

> cides in the last 30 years. An increased suicide rate is often seen as an indicator of abuse as well as depression and anxiety. In the early 1990s, young men were beginning to disclose in detail what had happened to them in care.

The analysis is based on 13 deaths of men aged 16 to 34, seven of whom killed themselves. In a comparable popnlation, averaged for England and Wales, the number of expected deaths would have been

The incidence of accidental death was around eight times the norm, according to the analysis, believed to be the first of its kind. The report says: "The results

are stark and suggest that ex-Clwyd people were a highly vulnerable special population. It should also be remembered that the act of suicide is itself but the tip of an iceberg which reflects the extreme of a conby many of the former chil-

It is thought that the death toil among people whn have been in the care system in both Clwyd and Gwynedd over the last two decades is now around 20. Most died in unusual circumstances and some had made allegations of ahuse.

The first recorded death was in 1975, when a teenager reportedly slipped on ice and fell from a railway hridge. The second death came when a 16year-old from the same home killed himself. There followed a succession of cases, including a young man who drowned off a pier in North Wales, a second drowning, two hangings, a fire death, a drug overdose and a death through solvent abuse.

In the 1990s, there were more suicides and deaths including an apparent drug overdose and alcohol misuse.

It is not clear how many of those who died had made allegations of abuse, but some are known to have made such

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THEATRE The latest shock horror at

Lottery cash clears way for museum redesign

A £15.75m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund yesterday takes the British Museum to within striking distance of the £100m it needs for the ambitious Great Court scheme. Stephen Goodwin looks at the finished design for the 'hidden courtyard' and the future of the historic Round Reading Room.

Scaremongering visions of school children chomping their crisps and sandwiches in the Round Reading Room once used by Marx and George Bernard Shaw were put to flight yesterday with confirmation that the domed room will become a public li-

The Reading Room closes at the end of this week as part of the British Library's move from the museum in Bloomsbury to St Pancras. When the Great Court project is completed - by 2001, all being well - the Reading Room will reopen as a place of study housing a reference library specialising in cultures represented in the museum. While at present admission is restricted to ticket holders, in future the library will be open to all museum visitors.

The upper walls of the Reading Room will be lined with books from the museum's own collections, while shelves at groundfloor level will contain a reference library of some 25,000 books funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

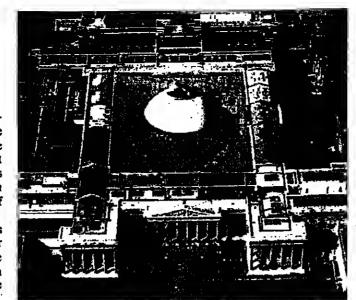
More radical changes will take place beyond the Reading Room. The drum-like huilding stands in the centre of the 2-acre Great Court. Designed in 1823 by Robert Smirke in the Greek revival style, this elegant space at the heart of the museum effectively vanished with the completion of the Reading Room 24 years later.

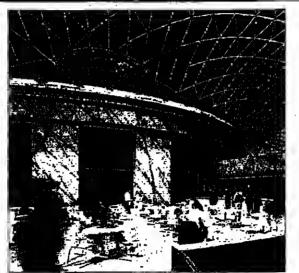
Under architect Sir Norman Foster's scheme, the "book stacks" - ugly post-war bunkers - that fill the space around the Reading Room will be demolished and a vaulted glass canopy constructed over the liberated courtyard.

"The impact of this scheme could be as significant as the Pyramid at the Louvre." Lord Rothschild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund said as he disclosed the £15.75m grant. With £30m from the Millennium Commission and £40m from private sources already secured, the museum

is confident it can raise the full £97m cost. The HLF money is earmarked for a Centre for Education within space excavated beneath the courtyard and restoration of the Reading Room. A large dedicated schools area - including somewhere for children to eat those packed lunches - two anditoriums and five seminar rooms will be included.

People pressure is the British Museum's hig problem. It was huilt for 100,000 visitors a year and admits almost 7 million. Yet it has a front hall of only 270 sq metres compared to 3,500 sq metres at the Louvre in Paris, catering for 4.7 million visitors, and 2,500 sq metres at the Metropolitan in New York, with 4.7 million visitors.





An aerial view (top) and the glazed over interior of Foster & Partners' scheme for the Great Court of the

Police officers named in 'drug confessions' inquiry

The suspension of two detectives following allegations of providing drugs for 'confessions' could lead to the re-examination of hundreds of criminal convictions. Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent says that some cases could be overturned

The two officers at the centre of the inquiry were oamed yesterday at the police force which has adopted a tough "zero-toterance" policy towards crime.

One of the officers briefed Tony Blair about the US-style policing strategy when he visited the Cleveland force in Middlesbrough during the general election campaign.

The officers have been suspended following an undercover police inquiry, called "Operation Lancet". The allegations include that drug-addicted inmates were given heroio in exchange for making confessions to previous crimes. Allegations of assault against the two officers are also un-

small number of other officers are also believed to be under in-

vestigation. If the drugs claims are proved, dozens of convictions involving "tainted" evidence would collapse. An internal police inquiry, overseen by the independent Police Complaints Authority, is believed to be going back a year and is expected to examining up to 500 cases.

The Crown Prosecution Service is reviewing every case that the suspended officers have been involved in for the past 12 months.

Some criminals who had admitted offences have already been freed because their evidence was no longer considered

The case comes at the same time as several large-scale investigations into alleged corruption at Scotland Yard. In one case, involving allegations of hribes and drugs money, a former police officer is offering to inform on ex-colleagues. Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan police commissiooer, has said that the force contains a "significant minority" of corrupt officers.

Chief constables are press-

derstood to have been made. A ing the Home Secretary for

sack officers more easily.

The suspended men in Cleveland were named yesterday as Detective Constable Brendan Whitehead, 30, who briefed Mr Blair during his pre-election visit, and Detective

Constable Sean Allen, 30. The officers were identified by the man behind the force's zero-tolerance policy, Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon and Assistant Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom.

Mr Brunstrom said: "We will follow the evidence - wherever that leads. The inquiry has been going on for some months and involves a number of people. The action we have taken is an indication that the public can trust the police. We will take swift and effective action to deal with the problems."

Mr Mallon said: "We have zero tolerance for lazy, indisciplined officers, and any officer involved in any criminal conduct. There is no need to break the rules. Every officer in Cleveland Constabulary is accountable for what he or she does everybody knows the difference between right and wrong.

Fresh evidence found in Hanratty case

shed new light on the case of James Hanratty, who was hanged for murder 35 years ago, MPs were told yesterday.

Sir Frederick Crawford, the chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, set up to investigate alleged miscarriages of justice, said a decision oo whether to refer the case to the Court of Appeal would be made within months.

Giving evidence to the Commons Home Affairs Committee after the CCRC's first six months in operation. Sir Frederick said that case workers were making a "very intensive effort" on the Hanratty case and had been "dredging up a lot of information out found previously".

Hanratty was convicted of the so-called "A6 murder" of Michael Gregsten, 36, who was shot dead on 22 August, 1961, after being disturbed in a Berkshire comfield during a tryst with his lover, Valerie Storie. The gunman forced the couple to drive to Deadman's Hill, south of Bedford, where he killed Mr Gregsten.

Miss Storie, 22, was raped, shot and left for dead, but survived and although paralevidence against Hanralty.

Campaigners claim this evidence, which structing the truth" in that case. was based largely on her memory of the

Previously undiscovered information has tone of voice used by her killer before he shot her, would not now be accepted by a

> Sir Frederick said the CCRC was close to completing its review of the case of Derek Bentley, hanged in 1952 for the murder of a policeman shot dead by his 16-yearold accomplice, Christopher Craig.

He said they were awaiting the full House of Lords ruling on the case of teenager Philip English, who was cleared earlier this year of the murder of a police sergeant by an accomplice while he was under arresi 100 yards away, before delivering their final ruling.

During the hearing, Sir Frederick also admitted to MPs that he had not declared that he was a freemasoo wheo he was interviewed for the £88,000-a-year post of chairman. He insisted, however, that CCRC members should only be obliged to declare a conflict of interest if they were involved in reviewing a case involving another freemason.

The committee chairman, Labour MP Chris Mullin, who was heavily involved in the campaign to clear the Birmingham Six, ysed from the waist down, went on to give said that there had been a lot of freemasons in Birmingham involved in "ob

— Inn Burrell

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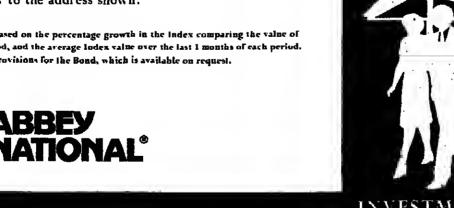
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Trimble leads Unionists out of talks

Ulster Unionists clashed with the Irish government at the peace talks in Belfast yesterday. The party withdrew from the nnrth-south strand of negotiations in a row over the Repub-

lic's territorial claim over

Northern Ireland. David Trimble (pictured) and his team left the room ofter they claimed that David Andrews, the Irish foreign affairs minister, had failed to give a commitment to changing Articles Two and Three of the Republic's constitution which claims jurisdiction.



But Mr Andrews said afterwards: "We can make no commitment until we get down to the nitty-gritty negotiations.

He added: "Of course Articles Two and Three will be discussed during the substantive element of these talks,"

Pro-Life appeal rejected

The anti-abortion party, the Pro-Life Alliance, yesterday lost its appeal for a judicial review of the BBC's censorship of its general election broadcast.

The BBC cut scenes from the broadcast because claiming it was "totally unacceptable on taste and decency grounds" and would not be broadcast "under any circumstances and at any time". Peter Duffy QC, representing the Alliance, said a judicial re-

view was needed because the film was cut for political reasons. However, Master of the Rolls Lord Woolf said that what the BBC broadcasts is covered by its Royal Charter. The courts could sometimes give guidance but not in this case, and he refused to overturn a previous decision not to allow a judicial review.

Barclays hit by second strike

Leaders of thousands of staff at Barclays Bank will decide during this week whether to call further strikes following stoppages vesterday and last Friday.

Leaders of Barclays staff union UNiFI and the Banking Insurance and Finance Union declared that 300 branches shul yesterday, that disruption was widespread and more employees went on strike than on Friday. Management counterclaimed that support for the industrial action wanted and that only 176 branches closed. Both unions are protesting over the introduction of a performance-related pay system which they claim would freeze the salaries of some 25,000 employees. The bank says the figure is inaccurate and that it is simply trying to reward hard work.

Barrie Clement, Labour Editor

Doctors in campaign to target flu jabs

Among the vast majority of employees who call in sick, the "flu" is how they invariably describe a bad cold. But yesterday * health workers were asked to spearhead a major campaign to encourage those really at risk to obtain fin jabs.

The campaign, part of National Flu Awareness Week, is an attempt to reduce predicted pressure on the NHS in the coming months.

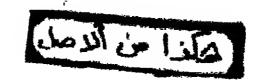
"The British Medical Association is very concerned about the effect of widespread flu on health services this winter," Dr John Chisholm, chairman of the general medical services committee of the BMA, said yesterday.

"Those who do not need find immunisation should make! sure they have over-the-counter medicine at home to treat their cold and flu symptoms."

Only about half of those most at risk from influenza receive the vaccinations, although the uptake has been increasing each year. High-risk groups include the elderly, and people with chronic heart or respiratory disease, kidney failure, diabetes, and weak immnoc systems and government health experts want to ensure that this year's 6.5 millioo available doses of vaccine are given to people who need them.

The vaccine has been produced to cope with the three flu strains expected to be circulating this wioter - "Wuhan". "Bayern" and "Beijing".

The last British epidemic was in 1989 when 29,000 people died. In normal years, the death rate is between 3,000 and



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Hospital guilty of fatal smear test blunders

Cervical smear testing faces a national shake-up after an independent inquiry found "serious failings" in a Kent hospital which had to recall more than 90,000 women for screening. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, examines a report which

'A damniog report into Britain's higgest smear test scare, where five women are known to have died, has found "serious failings" in the treatment patients received.

makes uncomfortable

reading for the NHS.

Of the 91,000 womeo who were recalled in February 1996. in was found 1,800 had been given the all-clear when they in fact showed signs of problems, and 333 were found to need urgent treatment. Some of the women needing to be recalled for screening have not yet beeo found.

Cancer of the cervix is the fifth most commoo cancer amoog woman. The NHS screeniog programme was set up in 1988, and women aged between 20 and 64 are called for a cervical smear every three to five years. Since it was set up, deaths have fallen by a third.

But the independent inquiry found the screening process at Kent and Canterbury Hospitals NHS Trust was characterised by poor and confused management, understaffing, poor training and breakdown in working relationships.

There also appeared to be a remoteness and lack of interest in the cytology screening programme by its consultants and the loquiry also said there cause the hospital had not adwas no clear line of accountability. It disclosed that repeated warnings about the problems had gone weot unnoticed for several years.

No disciplinary action has beeo taken against any staff. An independent inquiry was

ordered after an internal report played down the oumber of women affected, and in the inquiry's words, was "disingeouous" and "economical with the

"I have been forcibly struck ... by the different ways in which the introduction of the internal market ... exacerbated an already weak situation," said Sir William Wells, chairman of the South Thames NHS Region, who headed the in-

quiry. No clinical director of

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pathology was appointed for two and a half years, and the review team concluded that this was because the Trust was determined to recruit the clinical director at nearby Thanet to improve their competitive position. And when a letter from Director Healthcare NHS Trust raised a oumber of concerns, it was dismissed as part as a longrunning "turf war".

The report called for a shake up of the NHS cervical screening programmes. It demanded improvements in standards and quality control and the introduction of new national guidelines for inquiries and rescreening exercises.

In response, the Government promised swift action. The health minister Baroness Jay said: "I am dismayed by the litany of macagement weaknesses, unheeded warnings and poor quality control systems detailed in the report. The failures in the cervical screening service were completely unacceptable."

She said that, at a national level, the issues raised had to be considered "very carefully".

Kent and Canterbury hospital yesterday welcomed Sir William's review, describing it as "fair aod accurate", and apologised again to the women and families involved,

To make sure there are no further errors, women who had smear tests at the hospital between January and May 1996 are to be rescreened.

Sarah Harman, a solicitor and the sister of the Secretary of State for Social Security. Harriet Harman, is co-ordinating claims by more than 70 women. She said that the full extent of the misreporting would never he known. Many woman had heen seriously damaged, but were having to take the cases to court hemitted liability.

"This is not just a legal matter but a moral matter," she added. "It has been a disaster for women's health." Of the 333 "high risk" women, 10 have oot been traced. The hospital has admitted liability in three of the five deaths under investigation and has admitted misreporting in 25 cases.

Of the three consultants involved, two no longer work for the NHS. Concerns about their performance have been referred to the Royal College of Pathologists and the General Medical Council. The trust chairman, James Bird, took early retirement in June and the chief executive, Edward Pearson, stepped down at the same

Calpol dangers, page 16



Compensation fight: Helen Palmer, who was diagnosed with cancer at 33 Photograph: Nicola Kurtz that we couldn't discuss with one anoth-

'I was 33. I didn't expect to be told I had cancer'

"I went for my smears as I was told to and er. I didn't want to die. I had two small chilwhen I was told to and they were reported OK," says Helen Palmer. "Now they say they're not responsible. So who else is responsible?"

Heleo was only 33 when her cervical cancer was diagnosed. She had gone for smears in 1989 and 1990, Neither had thrown up anything untoward.

She had had two children - Liam, now aged 5, and Hannah, now aged 3, and so in December 1995 she went to see a gyoaecologist about being sterilised. It was

only then that a test revealed the cancer. That was a Wednesday. On the Saturday I got a letter saying it was urgeot and they arranged another appointment," she said. "I was devastated. I was only 33 and didn't expect to be told that I had cancer. It was so difficult for me and my husband. We had been considering whether out to have any more children but that decisioo was takeo away from us.

"My husband and I bad our own fears

dren that I wanted to see grow up. I had to live for my kids. It sounds dramatic to

say it but it just didn't seem right. After hiopsies confirmed the cancerous cells, Helen had the jumour removed and a full hysterectomy. "I was in shock because it all happeoed so quickly."

The two smears which had been seco as normal were rescreeoed. One was found to be highly abnormal, the other severely abnormal. "It was bad enough, but to be told it could have been picked up in the first place was terrible.

Keot and Canterbury have denied liability so far in Heleo's case, because she was referred to Margate Hospital for her bysterectomy. "But if they are not responsible, who is?" she says.

She still has check-ups every three mooths, but is well at the moment. "The week hefore I go I can't sleep because I'm thinking what they are going to say - is the cancer going to have come back?"

— Glenda Cooper



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Doctors III campaignt target flu

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Brown promises to come clean in the Commons

Gordon Brown will move to end uncertainty over the single currency next week. In a Commons statement he will specify how many years it will be before Britain is ready for the single currency. Diane Coyle and Anthony Bevins report on City and Westminster turmoil,

The Chancellor yesterday stressed the need for a period of stability, even as he paid the price in the financial markets for the weekend's uncertainty over the future of sterling. The City called it "Brown Monday". As the Chancellor switched on a new trading system at the Stock Exchange the screen behind him turned red as share prices dived thanks to confusion about the Government's policy on Economic and Monetary Union (Emu).

Shares later recovered bnt, to the distress of exporters, the pound ended nearly four pfennigs higher against the German mark, at DM2.89. Mr Brown told BBC radio: "People have got a right to expect that after any annuncement is made, there is a period of stability and not continued uncertainty," He would not say how long this would he, saying he would make his annnuncement to Parliament.

But Treasury sources said his statement would fix a number of years for assessing whether Emu membership was in Britain's interest. This would be linked to the parliamentary timetable and, after informal hriefings at the weekend, looks sure to be

City analysts put blame for the confusinn on the Government's apparent decision to put off the Emu choice until after the election, reversing indications that it was in favour of early entry. The immediate victim of the row could be Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's forceful special made confusion worse confounded," he adviser, whose public profile could be considerably reduced.

On Friday night be was overheard briefing reporters over his mobile phone from a Whitehall pub, that the Chancellor was ruling out single-currency membership for the lifetime of the current Parliament. Yesterday the Chancellor and

the Prime Minister's office refused to say any such thing. The Independent has also been told that regular media briefings by Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's chief press secretary, could go on the record, jettisoning the traditional form of unattributable "lobby" briefing. Treasury advisers are also considering giving on-therecord briefings.

They could help defuse the charge that the Government's message is being delivered by shadowy spin-doctors who cannot be held to account for contradictions. Clearly angered by press coverage moving from initial speculation about early entry into a single currency, the Independent report of a Downing Street split, and the weekend block on membership for at least another four years, the Prime Minister's office had little to add yesterday.

But a Treasury source said the Chancellnr's eventual Commons statement would also spell nut the results of a Treasury study on economic implications of membership, and whether British entry would satisfy the five tests the Chancellor has laid down. These are the likely impact of joining the single currency on jobs, investment and the financial-services industry, the flexibility of the member economies, and the extent to which Britain's business cycle had converged with the Continent.

The Chancellor will also tell MPs what the Government plans to dn to help the economy converge with other European economies. The Treasury study points to key differences such as the structure of the UK bousing market, which is much mnre sensitive than others to movements in shortterm interest rates.

Mr Brown is keen to avoid the financial markets taking the view that the Government's policy is to "wait and see", because that would leave the pound vulnerable to constant Emu rumours. Peter Lilley, shadow chancellor, said Mr Brown had not made the situation clearer. "He's

"The basic problem is that he has not followed his own advice and kept quiet until he had something to say to Parliament, where he can be held accountable and sub-

> Comment, page 21 The markets' verdict, page 22

Débâcle takes shine off Labour's image in Europe

The Government's messy apparent decision not to sign up to the euro until after the next election cast a cloud over the Prime Minister's meeting with Chancellor Kohl yesterday. As Rupert Comwell explains, one thing is clear: New Labour's European honeymoon is over.

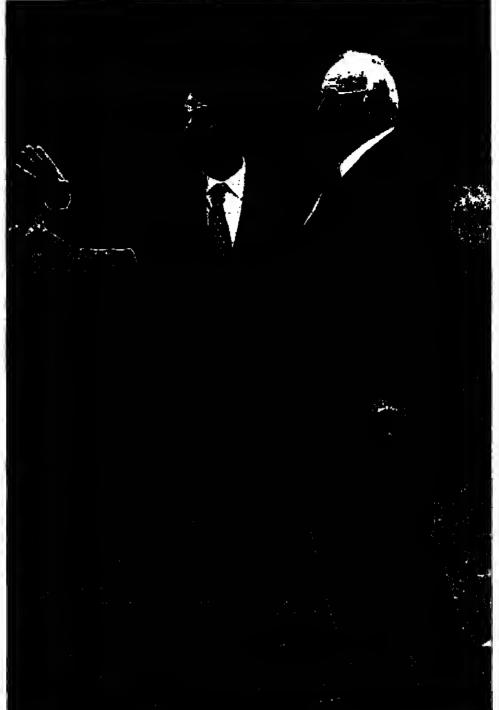
In public, predictably, Helmut Kohl and another visiting leader from the European Union, Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen of Finland, were at pains to avoid throwing fuel on the flames of the new controversy over British membership of the single currency, during their separate talks with Mr Blair.

"Britain must make np its mind what it wants, this is a domestic decision for the British," German officials said, refusing to be drawn on the débacle of the Gordon Brown interview, as the Chancellor spent half the day cloistered with the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in the seclusion of Chequers. But they emphasised Bonn's position remains that the sooner the British join.

In a sense, Mr Brown's weekend "clarification" of Britain's stance changes nothing for the Europeans, since almost noone expected the UK to join in the first wave, and few put much faith in British membership very soon thereafter.

Outwardly only sorrow dis-turbs the calm. "Britain has a long history of hesitancy in its relations with Europe," said one Bonn diplomat, pointedly recalling Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel's recent remark that it was better to board a train than to chase it after it had left the station.

fully understand Britain's problems," Mr Lipponen told reporters, before warning that countries which shunned the euro might find



themselves at a disadvantage in Europe's deliberations: "If you're not in the 'in' group, it's bound to affect your

last week, France and Germany agreed to set up a group of eurozone finance ministers, who would meet before regular

happen. In a little noticed move EU ministers (Ecofin). Technically these meetings would be informal, with no decision-making

In practice bowever, the new And that may be about to monthly gatherings of the full 15 body could become highly in-

Rural vista: Tony Blair points out aspects of the landscape at Chequers to Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday, before the two leaders held talks on

Photograph: AF

fluential. Although Italy's status is unclear, 10 or 11 countries will. sign up for the euro's 1999 launch, with only the UK, Sweden, Denmark and Greece certain to stay outside. If so, then Britain could find itself condemned to a minnrity on key issues, before a vote of the full 15 is even taken.

At the very least, the Labour government's claims to be a leader in Europe have been undermined by its conturtinus un the euro. And if it becnmes too assertive, Britain's partners could find sorrow at Britain's failure to jain up turning to irritation, even anger.

An early test will come at next month's employment summit in Luxembourg, aimed at reducing the EU's present jobless total of 18 million.

After Britain's thumbsdown, for the immediate future at least, in the most far reaching EU initiative for a generation, the last thing other European countries will want to bear are lectures from London about the superiority of Britain's flexible employment practices to the rigid, over-expensive labour market on the continent.

A further test will come in the first half of 1998, when the UK takes its turn to hold the presidency of the Union. This period co-incides with key decisions for the single currency in which Britain plans to take no part. Mr Lipponen felt obliged to express his "full confidence" in the ability of Britain to preside over the EU at this crucial stage.

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flow of good ideas.

Schools in poor areas must set high literacy targets

Schools and local education authorities in deprived areas will no longer be able to plead poverty as an excuse for low achievement, Stephen Byers, the schools minister, said yesterday. judith judd, Education Editor, reports on the latest initiative to raise standards.

All local education authorities must set new literacy targets within a month, the Government announced yesterday.

The strategy is part of the Government's drive to ensure that 80 per cent of 11-year-olds reach the required standard within the lifetime of this Parliament.

The worst performing authorities will be expected to bring at least 70 per cent of their pupils up to the standard and those performing best will be expected to reach around 90 per

Authorities are being given a proposed range for their targets. North Tyneside, at present at 63 per cent, must aim for be-

tween 81 per cent and 86 per ciently ambitious targets. Mr Bycent. The east London boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets, currently under 50 per cent, must aim for a minimum of 70 per cent

Each authority will have to publish its target, which will be agreed with the Government. help schools set their own targets which will also be published.

representatives: "There will be oo biding place for under-performance. Parents have a right to know what is expected from their own local authority.

"From now on poverty will be no excuse for failure. We will not use the perceotage of children receiving free school meals as a reason for lowering standards. Instead, it will be a reason for support in order to meet challenging targets."

Schools will get extra money from a £50m standards fund for classroom assistants and to update teachers' skills.

Authorities will have to include their targets in education development plans which will become compulsory under a Bill to be introduced next month. The Secretary of State for Educatioo wili have power to veto plans which do not offer suffi-

ers said that the Government was particularly keen to challenge those schools where around three-quarters of pupils reach the required level, but which had improved hittle for several years.

He said: "It may be more dif-Next term, councils will have to ficult to identify those schools with relatively good results which could stretch their pupils a good Mr Byers told a London deal further, the schools which conference of local authority are coasting and may be complacent." He named High Greave Junior School in Rotherham and Our Lady of Dolours Primary School in Westminster. as schools which had already passed the 80 per cent target even though half their pupils are on free school meals.

Graham Lane, chairman of Newham's Education Committee and chairman of the Local Government Association's Education Committee said Newham's test results had improved from 37 per cent at the required standard last year to 48 per cent this year. Fifty per cent of pupils in the borough

are on free school meals. He welcomed the plan: "It is essential we get up to 70 per cent. We want to be in the 90s. Our young people have to be able to compete with the rest



Talking art: The model Sophie Dahl in Conversation Pieces by the conceptual artist Nina Saunders at the ICA yesterday. It is one of five works which will appear in advertisements for Oil of Ulay this week

Student killed by rooftop fall Happy? No brought of

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An 18-year-old student is thought to have tumbled four storeys to his death, two weeks after going up to Cambridge University. He was found dead by a porter at Queens' College, Cambridge, early yesterday morning.

Police, who are trying to trace the dead man's parents, say they are not treating the death as suspicious. A spokesman saiti that the man, from the south of England, will probably be named today.

Dr Robin Walker, the college bursar, said that some of the dead man's possessions were found on the roof of the hall of residence where he lived, Cripps Court, which houses about 170 male and female students.

"We don't know what the circumstances of the fall were," said Dr Walker. "As far as we are aware there were no witnesses."

Two weeks ago, a sixth-form studeot died falling from a drainpipe at King's School, Ely.

Prescott and Brown clash over Tube funding

London's dilapidated Tube is desperately short of cash. Gordon Brown wants to privatise it, but John Prescott would rather not. Randeep Ramesh on a bust up between two of the biggest guns in the Cabinet.

On Friday, Cabinet ministers received a letter outlining Mr Prescott's options for the Tube. On the same day they woke up to find a story planted by the Treasury in the Financial Times saying that the Deputy Prime Minister wanted to hive off the Tube's tunnels and tracks on a long lease but with ownership returning to the state.

In fact, Mr Prescott has not made up his mind - apart from ruling out a total sell-off. The problem is that the Tube, which ferries more than 1.6m people every day, is falling apart and in dire need of a cash injection. To halt any decline it requires roughly £700m a year. This year, it is short by £150m - because of cost overruns on the Jubilee Line Extension which links Docklands to the west.

Mr Prescott is still keen on changing the Treasury rules so that any borrowing by London Underground would not be in-

cluded in the public sector borrowing requirement. Both he and Mr Brown, the Chancellor, exchanged "frank but cordial" comments last week. The two department's junior ministers have not been so restrained. Fur has flown between Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Richard Caborn, a minister of state under Mr

Prescott, about spending limits. The Treasury is unmoved. With hospitals and schools soaking up almost all the spare cash, Mr Prescott commissioned a study by Price Waterhouse into ways of funding the Tube. The results were surprising. It concluded that after the Jubilee extension was completed the network could run without "virtually any subsidy".

It is understood that the report assumes an increase in passenger numbers and fare rises of 1 per cent above inflation. It adds that if companies took a stake by 1999, then no more subsidy would be required than is costed for currently.

This date is important. Legislation is unlikely until late 1998 meaning that any any. "new Tube" would only appear. in 1999 at the earliest. One option does propose a

"concession" to the private sector. After the track company was returned to the state, the companies which had taken a stake would be able to charge the public train companies for the work done.

Other options include bundling together the track and the trains and selling a stake in each line or groups of lines to the private sector.

Ministers are aware that privatisation of the Tube is a political bomb. Sir George Young, the former transport secretary, privately told senior Tube managers that the Conservatives had got the sell-off "wrong".



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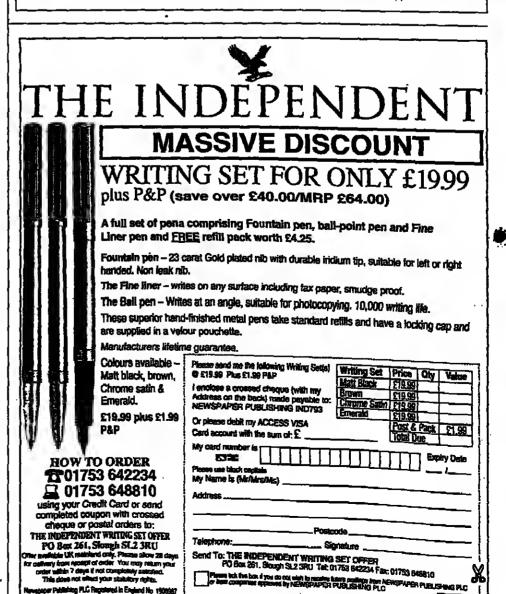
DAILY POEM

The New Colossus

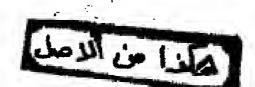
By Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, With conquering limbs astride from land to land; Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command The air-bridged harbour that twin cities frame. "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teerning shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

This week's poems come from Poets on Poets, edited by Nick Rennison and Michael Schmidt (£9.95). In this 400-page anthology produced by Carcanet Press in association with Waterstone's, almost 100 modern poets present work from poets of the past. Emma Lazarus's poem (part of which adorns the Statue of Liberty) appears io a 19th-century American section selected by



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Happy? No, they're just drinking to forget the angst and confusion brought on by the existential ills facing the modern male ...

Nineties Man is angstridden, confused and selfish. According to marketing experts. "New Man" is a figment of female imagination, while "New Lad" is a cop-out. Kathy Marks charts a dismai diagnosis of the existential ills of the modern male.

It was so simple a few decades ago. Men were men, and the world was constructed in such a way that they oever doubted it. The institutions of state, family and work combined to create and nurture their masculine identity.

Massive social and economic changes since the 1960s have played havoc with the nld certainties, shattering men's confidence and leaving them fumbling for a sense of self.

This is the dire picture painted by Chad Wollen, an analyst at the Henley Centre for Forecasting. Men are doomed, Mr Wollen told a conference organised by Channel 4, unless they emulate womeo and learn to cope with an insecure and volatile world. In earlier times, men knew exactly why they existed: to impregnate their wives, bring home the mooey and protect their families. But all three functions have been profoundly undermined.

Pity the Nineties Man whn derives self-esteem from being the breadwinner. Nearly 70 per ceot of women aged 20 to 59 now work. In their procreational capacity, too, men are far from indispensable, given the latest advances in reproductive science (not to meotion falling sperm counts). As for the stroog figure protecting his family from danger - research

by the Henley Ceotre shows that men are increasingly fearful about their own safety.

The institutions which reinforced the classic male image have disintegrated, Mr Wollen argued. The job for life, the traditional family and the paternalistic state no longer exist. In their place are far more fluid and unpredictable structures.

How then, does modern man handle his identity crisis? Does he rise in the challenge, seek fresh roles, adapt to a shifting society? No, he buries his head, ostrich-like, and pretends that it will all go away.

Day to day, he relies on Nineties Woman to pick up the pieces. "Women are now looking after families, jnbs, and most importantly for meo men," said Mr Wollen.

Alternatively, the contemporary male buys his way out of responsibilities. If his wife is not around to cook, he orders in a pizza. If there is housework or childcare to be dealt with, he engages dnmestic help and

More and more, he seeks relief from stress through drink and drugs. "Nineties Man is trying to pretend that the world hasn't changed," Mr Wollen said. "When all else fails, he goes out for a beer."

He dismissed New Man the caring, sharing, oappychanging 1980s male - as a prinduct of wishful female thinking, and poured scorn on New Lad - the football, sex and booze-obsessed 1990s man - as a puerile backlash.

"Men are regressing to a time when the old stereotypes still held true. The Lad is an incredibly powerful image, but it's not an adult response. Meo have to learn about flexibility and uncertainty. They have to understand that they can't be masters of the universe."



Keeping up appearances: For all his bravado, experts believe that Nineties Man may be suffering a unprecedented identity crisis stemming from the demise of traditional certaintie

WHICH **NINETIES** MAN ARE YOU?

Sean Kelleher. business development manager at Channel 4, has identified five "social stereotypes".

Nathan:

Aged 15-34, mainly from ABCI class. Appearance is important to Nathan; he enjoys spending money on dathes and skin-care products. He goes out to clubs and wine bars, and is athletic and sporty. Nathan's body is a temple. He regards cooking as a chore, likes eating out in ethnic restaurants and drinks strong beers and lagers such as Lowenbrau. He loves hi-tech gadgets and computers, watches ER and Brookside, and

is bad at managing money.

Mainly 15-34, with a C2DE hias. Dave is more settled, likes his home comforts and spends a lot of time on the sofa, particular when there is football or wrestling on the television. He wears designer labels, shops at Sainsbury's and avoids health foods. Dave enjoys a night out in the pub, drinks lagers such as Laberts and believes that real men should down numerous pints at one sitting. He goes to dog races and plans to buy a satellite dish next year.

Mark

Mainly 35-54, with an ABC1 bias. Mark is self-assured and confident, a top earner and a National Lottery enthusiast. He knows what he wants out of life and works hard to achieve it. He has staid tastes in fashinn, plays squash or badminton once a week and drives a family saloon car. Mark enjoys food, sometimes to the point of over-indulgence, and drinks French imported beers. He wanches The Girlie Show and probably has a pension.

Brian:

Mainly aged 35-54, C2DE class. Brian has "downmarket" cultural tastes. He watches a lot of television, particularly Sky football, and reads newspapers to keep up with showbusiness gossip rather than world affairs. He likes expensive aftershaves, takeaway meals and gadgets. Brian goes nn package holidays and when abroad, wants only to eat, drink and lie in the sun. He despises vegetarians and believes low-alcohol lager is not a man's drink.

Aged 55 plus, mainly ABC1. Philip wants to be a Nineties Man, but has deeply-rooted traditional male values. He loves fine wines and gardening, and reads the financial pages to keep tabs on his investments. He takes holidays in Europe, buys organic produce and may be a vegetarian. He exercises by taking long walks, is not obsessed with his appearance and is financially sophisticated. He is a homebird who drinks beers such as Theakstons.



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Shotgun wedding bodes ill for new Polish government

Poland is set to embark on a second wave of reforms after the shock therapists' return to power. mre Karacs reports on the Solidarity coalition unveiled

It had takeo more than a month to convery the Solidarity majority into a workable government, the last hitch was averted moments before the new parliament was due to convene yesterday morning. "The talks were sometimes hard, they lasted long, but they gave a basis for a good coalition which will last four years," declared Janusz Tomaszewski, one of the Solidarity nego-

On initial evidence, the administration being put together by Lech Walesa's heirs might he lucky to reach the half-way mark of its period of office. For the shotgun wed-

ding of the various Solidarity fragments is my in the 1990s with his "shock therapy", already exposing internal divisions, even is likely to emerge as the most powerful before the slow birth of their common programme. Only 124 of the 201 Solidarity Election Alliance MPs voted in favour of the deal with Freedom Unioo - the liberal post-Solidarity party - despite the absence of an alternative. Freedom Unioo brings 60 MPs to the government benches, and some members of the senior coalition partner believe that their votes were bought at too high a price.

According to a preliminary cabinet list, to be finalised by Friday, the liberals are set to capture the foreign, defence, justice, transport, telecommunications and culture ministries. Solidarity has kept the crucial ecocomic portfolio, but it has agreed to appoint the leader of the Freedom Union, Leszek Balcerowicz, as one of the two deputy prime ministers.

Mr Balcerowicz, the free-market guru who transformed the Communist econo-

and divisive personality in the new goveroment. His return from academia to centre-stage has been haded by the business community and is seen as a guarantee the

privatisation programme will gather pace.

But his agenda is opposed by the tradeunionist wing of Solidarité whose strength
in the new assembly is unknown. Adding to the complications, the government is to be led by a relatively milior Solidarity fig-ure, the chemistry professor Jerzy Buzek. The new administration must also learn

to cohabit with an unsympathetic president, Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former Communist who was elected in the days when dissent over Mr Balcerowicz's reforms tore Solidarity apart. However, in his speech inaugurating the new Sejm (parliament) yesterday, the President extended an olive-branch to his former foes, urging "har-



Shades of Fred West: The house in Brussels where a Hungarian preacher was suspected yesterday of having killed two ex-wives and four children. A police search uncovered several bones, one a femur

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Günter Grass lambasts German treatment of Turks

Conservative politicians in Germany were digging deep into their vocabulary of insults yesterday as they strained to respond to the latest controversy whipped up by the country's greatest living writer. Günter Grass, whose 70th birthday celebrations last week were an epic national eveot, is back in the doghouse.

Grass caused consternation on Sunday when, welcoming the award of a prize to Turkish-Kurd writer, Yasar Kemal, he laid into Germany's record on foreigners. "I am ashamed of my country," he declared. The author of The Tin Drum was generally incensed with Germaoy's relations with Turkey, and with the sale of weapons to a government he said was conducting a "war of extermination" against the Kurds. He also castigated the "barbaric" treatment of asylum-seekers. Members of the government pointed out that Germany had takeo far more refugees from Bosnia, for instance, than the rest of Eorope put together,

Whaling commission warned

Prince Rainier of Monaco opened the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting yesterday with a warning to member states that their arguments risked tearing the organisation apart. He told the five-day meeting, expected to be one of the most heated in years, that hitter disputes between whaling and anti-whaling forces overlooked the main issues facing the organisation. Whaling states like Norway and Japan have become increasingly vocal in demanding an end to a moratorium oo commercial whaling while anti-whaling members want a permanent ban.

Soros pledges cash to Russia

The financier George Soros said yesterday that he would spend up to half a billioo dollars in Russia over the next three years oo philanthropic projects. "I am reluctant to bandy about big figures because I want to make sure our own organisation is in good

order before I commit to specific targets," he told reporters. Among the programmes to receive funding are an effort to fight tuberculosis and improve medical care for mother and child, subsidies for books in schools and libraries, development of the loternet and the retraining of soldiers leaving the military.

Albanian communists cleared

An Albanian court acquitted the former communist president Ramiz Alia and three other senior officials of genocide and crimes against humanity and ordered their release. The officials were two former interior ministers, Simon Stefani and Hekuran Isai, and former general prosecutor Qemal Lame. Alia, successor to Stalinist dictator Enver Hoxha, escaped while awaiting trial and is believed to be living in Paris with his son.

Galicia poll boost for autonomy

Galician autonomy received a Galego and milked every adboost in regional elections oo Sunday that hoisted the nationalist profile of Spaio's poor north-west to match that of the

Basque country and Catalonia. The veteran leader of the conservative Popular Party in the region, Manuel Fraga, a former minister of Franco, renewed his absolute majority

with 51.5 per cent of the vote. Feeling equally triumphant, however, was the left-wiog leader of the National Galician Bloc, Xose Manuel Beiras, whose party's share jumped to 25.5 per cent, compared to 18.4 per cent in 1993. The result was humiliation for the Socialists, in coalition with a pro-Communist alliance and the Greens. Their share of the vote dropped from 27.1 per cent to 19.4 per cent.

Mr Fraga's victory owes more to his roots io his homeland than Galicians' endorsement for the PP government in Madrid. He made speeches in

vantage from his party's regional control. Mr Beiras's advance, making him the region's opposition leader, shows how the nationalist banner has scooped up left-wing discontent. throughout the region.

Dependent on fishing and dairy farming, both of which are in crisis, Galicia has suffered deeply from the EU's Common Agricultural Policy. Many small farmers in this conservative heartland who might have been inclined to back Mr Fraga were won over by the Mr Beiras's fervent Europhobia.

"Are we to cut off our arms just because the suit that Brussels has made for us has no sleeves?" he thundered to fishermen whose boats were laid

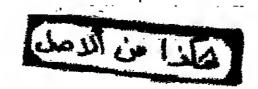
He also won support among professiooals and youngsters concerned that their region was being ignored by Madrid and crucified by Brussels.

— Elizabeth Nash, Madrid

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Milosevic

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Milosevic foe ignites Montenegro's hopes of freedom

The election of one of Slobodan Milosevic's staunchest critics as president of Montenegro is the latest setbacks for the Balkan strongman. Andrew Gumbel says Milo Djukanovic's victory could prove to be a slow-burning fuse under the Milosevic power machine.

It would be wrong to see Milo Djukanovic as a knight in white shining armour. He owes his brief but glittering career to the man he now professes to hate. Slobodan Milosevie. Until recently he was the protégé, not the rival, of the man he beat in Sunday's presidential election. the outgoing head of state. Momir Bulatovic.

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But in the ever-shifting sands of Balkan politics, Mr Djukanovic's election is a milestone. Ever since the prndemocracy street profests in Belgrade last winter, the 35-year-old economist and outgoing prime minister has emerged as a frank critic of Mr Milosevic and his autocratic, opportunistic leadership style.

Over the past year almost every significant post in the tiny republic of Montenegro has been given to men who support economic and political reform intended, above all, to end the isolation into which Mr Milosevic had dragged Montenegro through his initiation of the wars of Yugoslav secession.

Sanctions and a perceived pro-Serbian bias in the politics of the two republics caused economic disaster for Montenegro. The potentially lucrative port of Bar is idle, the beautiful coast unexploited, and state salaries the mainstay of most families - have slumped.In such a climate Mr Djukanovic's call for change bas been persuasive.

The presidency was the only prize that still eluded the reformist camp and that has now been clinched, though by the narrowest of margins. Mr Djukanovic failed to win the first round against Mr Bula-7,000 votes. That might seem a tentative platform for change, especially since Montenegro's population is 650,000, against more than 10 million in Serbia,

hut Mr Djukanovic has got the outside world and the peculiar rules of the rump Yugoslav con-

stitution on his side. As Montenegrin presideot he controls half the Yugoslav federal parliament, which can make or break the federal president - numinally an honorific post hut occupied by Mr Milosevic. He can prevent Mr Milosevic changing the constitution to bolster his powers and can also pile on pressure to install a reformer in the constitutionally crucial position of federal prime minister.

In the longer term, Mr Djukanovic can press for greater autonomy for Munlenegro. A good portion of Mnntenegrin society looks back fondly to before the First World War, when it was independent. That is an asset Mr Djukanovic is sure in use, even if complete independence appears out of the question for now.

He will have to tread carefully, not least because of the many Montenegrins who voted for Mr Bulatovic in the belief that succumbing to centralised power is more prudent than challenging it. Mr Bulatovic has already begun to dish dirt on his rival, accusing him of organising cigarette-smuggling rackets during the Bosnian war. Mr Djukanovic responded with corruption accusations of his own; there is a danger too much dirty linen washed in public will discredit both men.

Mr Djukanovic wili be aided by the confusion racking Serbia itself. Over the past month Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party of Serbia failed to win an outright majority in the Serbian parliament and was unable to rouse the required 50 per cent of the voting public to clinch a result of any kind in Serbia's own presidential election. In both cases, with the pro-democratic opposition boyconting elections altogether, the hig winners were the extreme nationalists of the Radical Party and their leader, Vojislav Seselj.

Serbia's political prospects no longer look as rosy as during last winter's liberal-inspired street protests but the same message is still coming through: that Mr Milosevic is in trouble. He may not be about to relindare bet on that any more - but he might be forced to permit the likes of Mr Djukanovic to pusb through their programme



and his wife, Lidija, celebrating his narrow victory in elections for the Montenegrin presidency. The result is particularly significant, as the presidency was the only prize still eluding the reformist camp in the tiny republic.

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Belgrade fury at British bid to tackle media bias

Following the shift towards a more ethical foreign policy, British diplomats have helped the media in Beigrade to present a less biased view of the world to Serbs. Their help has a unique technological twist, courtesy of the BBC. Steve Crawshaw reports on a burst of Serb indignation, and a defiant British reaction.

The Serbian government has often sought to make it difficult for independent broadcasters to reach their audience. "Technical failures" tend to be more political than technical. Stations critical of the government find it difficult to get a licence.

Britain bas stepped in to help broadcasters sidestep the problems caused by the Belgrade regime. A respected independent radio station, B-92, has begun to receive crucial belp - via the BBC, but with the active support of the British

government. Britain has given satellite receivers to a number of radio stations in Serbia, making it possible for them to broadcast B-92's news programmes in different parts of Serbia. Britain's involvement was warmly welcomed by Serb democrats. But the Yugoslav authorities were less keen.

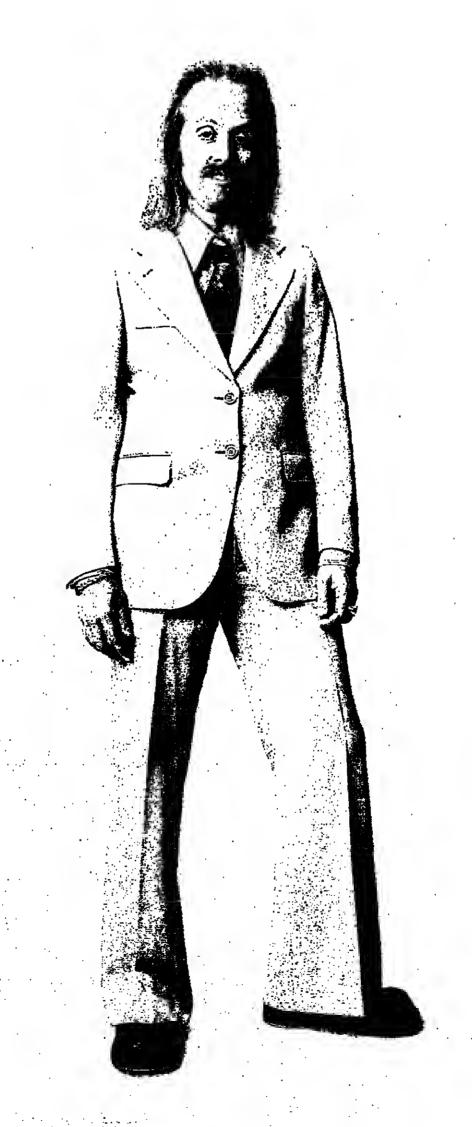
The foreign ministry hauled in the British ambassador, Ivor Roberts, to complain that Britain had breached the rules of the diplomatic bag, by letting

the equipment in. Mr Roberts who is about to leave Belgrade, appears to have given as good as he got. He threatened retaliation if Serbia blocked the use of the satellite receivers in other words, if Belgrade sought to prevent B-92 from

reaching its intended audience. He emphasised that Britain was ready to pay customs dues, but indicated that if Belgrade wanted to prohibit the use of the receivers, and thus keep B-92 partly muzzled, then EU economic concessions would be cancelled. At which point, Serbia appears to have decided that it was not worth the fight.

Freedom of the media has become a key issue in Serbia. The dominance of state radio and television means that alternative views are rarely given a fair hearing. There is little press censorship. But a recent report for the European Commission described state television news as "fundamentally flawed" because of its failure to provide balanced coverage of the most important issues.

Io other respects, too, Britain appears to have got under the skin of the Belgrade regime. In what appears to be part of a campaign, a diplomat at the British embassy has been attacked in the pro-government press. Julian Braithwaite, secood secretary, is accused of stirring up trouble in the Albanian-majority region of Kosovo, where basic human rights are ignored. Britain argues that it is interested only in seeking a peaceful resolution to Kosovo's problems. Perhaps coincidentally, Mr Braithwaite's apartment has also been broken into and ransacked.



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Pressure on star witness in nanny trial

It was a courtroom and the charges were firstdegree murder. But there were times yesterday when anyone at the Louise Woodward trial could have believed they were at a lecture on advanced neurosurgery. David Usbome watched as the prosecution attempted to pull apart key defence medical evidence.

A star defence witness in the trial of Louise Woodward, the teenage British nanny accused of murdering the infant boy in her care, Matthew Eappen, refused yesterday under crossexamination to withdraw his assertion that the baby could not have been killed by violent shaking on 4 February, as alleged by the prosecution.

After several hours of intense questioning by the prosecution, Dr Jan Leestma once more insisted that the cause of death could not have been counted for on the basis of sub-"shaken baby syndrome" as has been charged.

"In these kinds of violent shaking, it is impossible for me to imagine that there wouldn't he cutaneous impressions, bruises, rip marks, that sort of thing, to inflict this kind of injury. There is no record of that here," Dr Leestma, a neuropathologist, told the court.

He repeated his claim, first made in lengthy testimony last Friday, in spite of undergoing hours of sometimes hectoring cross-examination. He was, however, forced to coocede that he was being paid \$450 an hour to testify in the trial and had received \$350 an hour for

It is vital for the prosecution to undermine for the jury the credibility of Dr Leestma's testimony, which at the very least appears to offer an alternative explanation for the death of Matthew Eappen, who was disconnected from a respirator by his own parents. Deborah and Sunil Eappen, on 9 February.

Dr Leestma, who claims to have examined 20,000 brains during his career, appeared to sustain some damage when the prosecution read passages from a book he had himself published last year, in which he admonished juries against taking too seriously exactly the kind of evidence he had just provided to this court.

The passage noted that defence witnesses in child abuse cases often point to the appearance of new, third, membranes on the lining of the brain to indicate previous injuries and discredit any abuse charges.

"Such explanations," Dr Leestma wrote of the memhranes, "do not take into consideration the brain swelling that is invariably present. And the fatal outcome cannot be acdural haematoma [clot] mass-effect, but are rather caused by a new episode of

trauma on the children," Looking briefly flustered, the doctor conceded that he had changed his mind about the significance of such membranes since writing his book, "I have had subsequent case material and instances which suggest that that was too narrow an interpretation," he said.

Dr Leestma hesitated slightly when asked to repeat his testimooy that the clot in Matthew's head must have been present for three weeks before the events of 4 Fehruary. "Of course, it is an estimate," he said at one point.



Butcher may not have known of infected meat sale

A butcher accused of "culpably, wilfully and recklessly" supplying E. coli-infected meat may not have known his shop had sold it at all, a court heard yesterday. Steve Boggon reports from Hamilton Sherriff's Court

John Barr, the butcher whose shop in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, was linked to an outbreak of E. coli 0157 poisoning last year, was defended in court yesterday by a man to whom

he stands accused of selling infected meat. David Moon, 66. told Hamilton Sheriff's Court it was possible that a member of Mr Barr's staff had supplied the meat without the butcher's knowledge. And, oo the first

day of a trial scheduled to last four weeks, Mr Moon appeared to challenge the prosecution case when he added; "I do not believe that Mr Barr would knowingly sell me contaminated meat."

Mr Barr, 50, faces a charge of supplying cooked ham, beef and turkey to Mr Moon for an 18th birthday party oo 23 November last year even though he had been warned not to by council and environmental health officers in North Lanarkshire the day before.

The meat, 100 slices each of baked ham. roast beef and cooked turkey from his shop in Wishaw, was subsequently consumed at an 18th birthday party beld for Lauren Mac-Farlane, daughter of Mr Moon's niece, Fay, resulting in at least 11 people being poisoned with the Ecoli bacterium. None of them died.

In his evidence, Mr Moon, a retired steel worker, said he had been placing regular orders with Mr Barr for up to 10 years. He confirmed to Ian McCann, prosecuting, that he had bought the meat from Mr Barr's shoo and had even discussed the "order" with him. However, under cross-examination by George Moore, representing Mr Barr, Mr Moon said the original order - for the meat and a hirthday cake from a bakery owned by Mr Barr had been placed in Mr Barr's absence a week before the party. Several days later, he returned to tell staff - including Mr Barr - to correct the spelling of "Lauren" on the

birthday cake, without mentioning the meat. On the day of the party, he collected his meat, which was pre-packed and handed to ed him the birthday cake, Asked by Mr Moore whether it was possible that Mr Barr had known only of the cake order he said it was.

him by an assistant. Separately, Mr Barr hand-

Later, Fay MacFarlane had expressed

concern to him over radio reports warning that Mr Barr's shop in Wishaw had been linked with an E-coli outbreak. Mr Moon told the court he called Mr Barr to ask about the "dubiety" of the meal but was told that only corned beef and chopped ham were under scrutiny.

He agreed, however, that he could not he sure it was Mr Barr on the phone. Furthermore, he said he was not sure whether the person to whom he spoke realised he was talking about a specific order or John Barr's meat in general.

Mr Barr left three messages on his answering machine on the evening of the party telling Mr Moon to contact him urgently. The next day- before anyone was displaying signs of having been poisoned - Mr Moon visited Mr Barr and offered to take back the meat and arrange a new supply.

The hearing continues.

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For the third consecutive year, a combination of devastating floods and drought has ruined harvests and destroyed homes. In parts of North Korea children are already having to live on a diet of tree bark and roots. But, without urgent help, many will not survive the bitter cold of the North Korean winter.

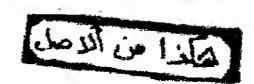
Help is needed urgently to avoid this catastrophe. In addition to food and medical equipment, blankets and winter jackets are now desperately needed. You can do something to prevent huge numbers of children suffering through the winter months. 26 could help feed a family of four for two months.

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Caring for people in crisis



Gypsies left to face chilly welcome at the cliffs of Dover

The 'Slovak scroungers' had already become the talk of Dover before this weekend's sudden influx created new fears and new shock headlines. But the gypsies are worried, too. Steve Crowshow hears different views that may prove be hard to reconcile.

"They spat at me as I came out of the registry office on my wedding day, because I had married a gypsy. People were full of hatred. That's just how it is."

Hana, though oot herself a gypsy, is describing the mood back home in the Czech republic, which eventually persuaded her to bring her family to the UK. "For myself, I could get used to it. But my children were made to suffer. And that's what I couldn't stand." In the Czech republic and Slovakia, discrimination against gypsies is part of the daily routine. The New Yorkbased Human Rights Watch talks of "hlatant discrimination and violent crimes". which the authorities do little to punish.

A Slovak gypsy in Dover talks of being thrown off buses, with yells from those on the bus of "black-faced mugs!". "When people saw the skinheads throwing us out, they were happy. People shouted: 'Go back to India!' There's no special hus [for gypsies] -so you always risk being thrown out." One family now living in Dover was firebomhed; the daughter's legs are still

The racism facing the gypsies at home is real. But that does not make things easier for the authorities in Dover. The 150 who suddenly descended on the town over the weekend were only the latest batch to arrive, claiming political asylum. Several hundred arrived in recent months, bringing the total to around 800. Police last night described as "grossly exaggerated" reports that a further 3,000 may still be on their way. Even before this weekend, Kent County Council reckoned that it would have Dover for two years says; "It was all nice in," or "The English pay for everything to spend an extra £1m to cope with the new and calm at the beginning. People used to arrivals. The asylum-seekers' families must be housed and educated, paid for by the any longer." Those who work daily with the

In at least one case, would-be asylumseekers signed on in two areas, to gain dou- man who runs a hed-and-hreakfast where hle benefits. There has been shoplifting, too. Because most of the gypsies are in bed-andbreakfast accommodation, they speed much of their time on the streets.

lurid headlines, has led to enormous local the cuckoos io the oest. Typical comments resentment. A Slovak who has lived in include: It's disgusting that they're allowed the introduction of visas. Britain may



Home alone: Joseph, 9, a Slovak refugee, waiting in his guest-house accommodation as his father is held at Rochester Dentention Centre Photograph: Brian Harris

smile at me when I said I was Slovak, Not gypsics claim that the problems have been blown up out of all proportion. Ooe gypsies have regularly been housed by the council said that "only a tiny minority"

caused problems. In Dover, however, it is difficult to find All of which, combined with suitably people who have a warm word to say about

they get nothing themselves. That's how it is, nowadays." A letter-writer in the Dover Express complains: "Chemists are going flat out providing free prescriptions - and they are collected by hands covered in more gold than Tutankhamun."

Paradoxically, the reason that many gypsies give for being in Britain is that they perceive it as a country of great tolerance. a neutral player in the whole issue. Canada used to be the preferred country of destination - but an ecormous influx of asvium-seekers there this summer led to '

on this page, a Czech televisioo programme which quoted eothusiastic gypsies oo their reception in the UK helped to trigger a further exodus. After meetings with British officials yesterday, Slovak diplomats said that they would send the message bome that gypsies should not come to the UK. But the Slovak government is hardly

There has been little cross-party argument on the issue. Gwyn Prosser, the local Labour MP, has worked hand in hand with the Conservative-led county council

now follow suit. As described elsewhere to persuade the Government to come up with more fuods. Current legislation means that asylum-seekers are not allowed to move from Dover and the immediate surrounding area while the asylum claim is being considered.

> Inflammatory recent reports are coodemned by council officials as "unhelpful, to say the least", because of the tensions they have stoked. But the problems do oot look set to vanish.

The immigration minister, Mike O'Brico, yesterday seot a tender-buttough message: "We want genuine refugees all.

THE LURE OF PROMISED LANDS

The gypsy exodus from the Czech Republic and Slovakia began in earnest in August after the broadcast of a Czech television documentary charting the journey and arrival in Canada of Romany fam-

They were shown having picnics, learning to drive and visiting the Niagara Falls. Five thousand gypsies in the Czech Republic were reported to have packed and booked all the flights to Toronto for the next two

When Canada looked to be a tougher option — asylum-seekers faced tough questioning and the prospect of months in run-down hostels with no money or work followed by attacks on hostels by skinheads the gypsies started to look elsewhere They started trickling into Dover.

Josef Klima, the journalist behind the Canada documentary, turned his camera on Britain, The 30 September edition of With Your Own Eyes, the most popular Czech current-affairs programme, dedicated 20 minutes to looking at the face of Czech and Slovak gypsies planning to settle in Britain.

It helped prompt the renewed exodus here. But Mr Klima Insists he is not "the initiator of this immigration wave or a travel agent masterminding the exodus of gypsies.

"If I hadn't done the documentary it would only mean that the same turn of events would have happened two or three months later. I just speeded things up." The film showed gypsy families searching for others on arrival in Dover and being grilled by Immigration officials. Those already In Britain spoke enthusiastically of funds and support they had been given.

Kate O'Brien, Progue

to get support," he declared. "But people who are just coming to ahuse the system, they're going to get a very firm response

Wheo the Conservatives were in power, life was much easier for Labour to catcall the heartless Tories from the margins. The events in Dover show that things are often more difficult now and Mr O'Brien's comments are unlikely to satisfy either side - those who are worried about racism agaiost the gypsies or those who believe that the gypsies should oot be here at



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Anya Potato Fritters

Boil 250g (Soz) potatoes until cooked, and slice lengthways. Mix in a bowl with 75g (3oz) polenta, 1 egg, 15ml (1/2 floz) beer, juice of 1/2 lemon, 1 thep of chopped salad onion stalk, 3 thep of chopped coriander and stalks and I chopped green chilli. Season. Shape into flat patties and shallow fry in hot oil until golden brown. Garnish with black olives and crème fraîche.



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US welfare reform faces reality test

America's welfare reforms have been hailed as an unalloyed success. But although the number of social security recipients has fallen, Mary Dejevsky in Washington says the press is now turning against the reforms.

The figures seem indisputable. Over the past year the number of people receiving benefits has fallen by 14 per cent nationwide and in many places by much more. Unemployment is at its lowest for a generation. suggesting there is potential for even more to join the procession from welfare to work.

But in the past week the press - including some of the most ardent supporters of the reforms - has been more critical. There are occasions, they have concluded, where hard choices have to be made and the reforms may not work.

For its study the New York Times chose the Mississippi Delta, one of the poorest regions in the country, and found withdrawal of state benefits had only a temporary effect. There were not that many jobs available, skilled or unskilled; settlements were dispersed, forcing long commutes. And because existing welfare benefits were among the lowest in the viding training, transport and US, withdrawal had only limited punitive effect.

The paper cited a mother who decided distasteful work at a moral one. But even the a fish plant, inconvenient shifttimes, poor pay, an hour-anda-half commute each way and unreliable childcare made the young children to work, espeproject unsustainable. It noted that while these poor Mississippi counties might now be the tion, they ask, or is trouble beexception, they could rapidly ' ing stored up for the future?

become the rule if the economy faltered.

The Washington Post took the example of a single parent who seemed to justify the reforms. She took subsidised training, found a job, enjoyed it and is off benefits. Which would be a vindication if she did not have a 15-year-old at home who is pregnant with her second child and still at school.

Childcare for two grandchildren would take up more than her total income. Should she throw in the job, throw out her daughter, or take her out of school? If she keeps her job. is she just pushing her daughter into the dependency she escaped? Eventually, it is agreed her daughter should leave school for a year, but this is not what the welfare reforms were supposed to encourage.

The Wall Street Journal took New Jersey, where a close race for the governorship prompted the Republican incumbent, Christine Todd Whitman, to say the state is a "national model for its welfare-to-work efforts". But the only thing New Jersey was a national model for, the correspondent said, was "the coast-to-coast hype" surrounding the reforms. He asked whether they had done more than flush out fraudulent claimants, leaving the real problem of poverty untackled.

At the heart of these criticisms are two: the cost of prochildcare may exceed the cost of the original benefits, reducing the economic argument to moral argument is challenged by those who question the sense of putting a mother of cially if childcare is inadequate. Will this help the next genera-



Algerian mothers thwarted in search for loved ones

lawyers, to abandon a march to parliament to demand information about people who have disappeared during the

day, thousands of people have gone missafter authorities cancelled general elec-

Algerian police yesterday forced dozens of women like the one above, as well as preparing for local elections on Thurslim rebels. The military is accused of ing since 1992, when violence broke out . many disappearances but the government denies any wrongdoing. The rebels civil war. Mothers of the missing rarely tions that Islamists were poised to win. have also been behind many kidnappings.

Uncle Sam, world's dirtiest old man

Figures released yesterday show that the United States - the world's biggest producer of greenhouse gases - increased emissions by 3.4 per cent last year, despite voluntary constraints.

The report, by the Department of Energy, comes less than a week before an expected announcement by President Bill Clinton setting out the official position on curbing greenhouse emissions.

The question of whether the US should sign up to mandatory targets for emissions cuts at the Kyoto conference on global ming in December - and if so what those targets should be - is the the subject of fierce debate in Washington.

The Department of Energy said last year's increase in emissions reflected higher than expected economic growth (consuming more energy), an unusually harsh winter, and higher natural-gas prices that encouraged consumers to switch to dirtier forms of energy, including coal.

Supporters of mandatory targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions used the increase to argue that voluntary targets had not worked. The US has 4 per cent of the world's population, but accounts for 20 per cent of greenhouse emissions.

Figures from the Department of Transport also showed petrol consumption increased in the first half of this year by

almost 2 per cent - caused in part by a switch to higger cars and by a slight fall in fuel prices. In an observation that will reinforce European calls for the US to accept legally enforceable targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, the same report said the fuel efficiency of US cars had not improved since the mid-Eighties.

While fuel consumption is not a big consideration for US car-buyers, the price of petrol is a major political issue and those campaigning against compulsory emissions targets find a receptive audience when they argue that internationally enforceable targets would increase fuel costs.

- Mary Dejevsky, Washington : incident".

South Africa reopens file on death of Samora Machel

South Africa has reopened an investigation into the death of Mozambican president Samora Machel in a 1986 plane crash over South Africa, a justice spokesman said yesterday. Torie Pretorius, a member of the investigating team from South Africa attorney general's office, said a decision to reopen the case was made after a meeting between police minister Sydney Mufama di and Mozambique officials in June.

The Johannesburg daily Star newspaper said yesterday new allegations had emerged that Machel, who led Mozambique to independence from Portugal in 1975, was poisoned at the scene of the crash in 1986 by a doctor who later died in a car accident.

South African President Nelson, Mandela has vowed to uncover the truth about Machel's death, saying he did not believe the findings of an apartheid-era official inquiry which blamed pilot error.

France denies role in Congo

France denied having intervened in a civil war in the Congo Republic, saying it had played no role in the victory of the new military ruler, Denis Sassou Nguesso. Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said Prance's sole goal throughout the four-month war between forces loyal to Mr Sassou and ousted Congolese president Pascal Lissouba was to support a mediation offer by Gabon President Omar Bongo.

France is the former colonial power in the oil-producing state and French energy giant Elf, now private but formerly owned by the French state, is active there.

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Kenya told to let party stand

A US diplomat has called on the Kenyan government to register the opposition Safina party to demonstrate its sincerity in carrying out constitutional reforms. Michael Marine, deputy chief of mission at the US embassy in Nairobi, rejected the argument justifying refusal to register the party because it would jeopardise peace and stability.

The US embassy is backing political reforms in Kenya prior to forthcoming general elections but has not specifically endorsed registration of Safina, one of whose founders is the renowned paleontologist, Richard Leakey. All political parties in Kenya must be officially registered, and Safina applied for this status 28 months ago. But two weeks ago, the registrar of societies denied registration on the grounds that the party would be a danger to Kenya and had an "inappropriate" name.

Diplomat and the belly-dancer

It has all the makings of an Egyptian soap opera; sex, politics, intrigue - and a scantily clad belly-dancer. Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Bassiouny, has been the talk of the town since allegations surfaced that he sexually assaulted an Israeli belly dancer, identified only as "Aleph". The Haaretz newspaper said the ambassador, a former intelligence officer, "ought to have known about the danger of trysts in strange bedrooms where cameras and microphones can easily be hidden".

Last week, the state prosecutor announced that the investigation would be closed for lack of evidence, but the Maariv newspaper speculated that Mr Bassiouny's term would end within a few months, purportedly "for reasons totally unconnected to the



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Cinema audiences kept in the dark about Hollywood's Dalai Lama epics

Films which anger the Chinese authorities are not banned in Hong Kong but are merely not distributed, especially if they are about Tibet, writes Stephen Vines

Three Hollywood films with themes unacceptable to the Chinese government are unlikely to be seen in what has become the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong because distributors have

shied away from buying them.
The first, Seven Years in Tibet, the controversial story of Heinrich Harrer, who befriended and acted as tutor to the young Dalai Lama, stars Brad Pitt and David Thewlis and makes no secret of its sympathy with the Tibetan people. Neither does Kundan, directed by Martin Scorsese, based on the official biography of the Dalai Lama. It has been produced by the

Disney, which was threatened with reprisals by China if it went ahead with the project. It declined to back down and has enlisted the support of Henry Kissinger, former US secretary of state, to try to make peace with Peking.

Seven Years in Tibet has been released

in the US and got good reviews, though controversy has arisen over the role of Harrer, who has been revealed as having an active Nazi past; this was enthusiastically reported in the Hong Kong media.

Kundan will be released on Christmas Day in America and could spawn a new generation of Tibetan film-stars, as unknowns from Tibet make up the bulk of

Red Comer, starring Richard Gere, who is a strong Dalai Lama supporter, is not about Tibet but about the nightmare of an American businessman who becomes entrapped in China's notoriously arbitrary legal system. The female lead is played by the actress Bai Ling, who fears it may end her career in Chinese films.

Films such as these were freely shown before Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule but now appear unacceptable to the territory's major distributors, all of which do husiness in China.

Television companies have also exercised self-censorship in buying pro-grammes seen as critical of the Chinese

Under the colonial regime, laws existed to ban films likely to upset the Chinese government, though they were thinly disguised as referring to films likely to endanger relations with neighbouring

countries. These laws were rarely used. However, there has been no need for legal action in this instance, as the distributors have done the Chinese government's work for them. Local human-rights groups have described their action as the worst kind of self-censorship.

We'll do it our way, 'Tung will tell Britain

Tung Chee-hwa, the former shipping tycoon who replaced Chris Patten as Hong Kong's Chief Executive, is showing remarkable skill in getting the people of the former colony to accept his political agenda. Stephen Vines in Hong Kong says he will be using his visit to Britain, which starts today, to reinforce his authority

ens file on

Delly-dancer

ATT L BANK

Trailing around London, just as Chris Patten used to do, may oot seem the most obvious way for Tung Chee-hwa to boost-his credeotials as a Chinese leader breaking the restraining ropes of colonialism. However, Mr Tung sees it as an opportunity to show Tony Blair whom he will meet today that he is not in awe of the for-

mer sovereign power. In nearly every major speech since coming to office on 1 July. Mr Tung has used the phrase "now that we are our own masters" to stress the end of colonial rule and the ascendancy of the new Chinese order.

He talks constantly of "Chinese values" and "our own way of doing things" to emphasise the break with the past. This kind of rhetoric strikes a chord with Hong Kong people who were generally uncomfortable with their role as colonial subjects even though they gave little sign of their objections.

Uoder the new order, opinion polls show that although most people are happy the colonial era is over, they are worried about the policies of the government. Heading the list of unpopular measures is the scrapping of all tiers of elected government and the installation of a very unpopular non-elected legislature - the president of which, Rita Fan, is compared to Jiang Qing, Chairman Mao's hated wife and the leader of the Gang of Four, which spread havoc throughout China during

the Cultural Revolution. Mr Tung has tried to divert public attention from the issue. We've had five years of de-

LIFE UNDER THE NEW REGIME

Elected government: All tiers of elected government were scrapped

and replaced by appointed bodies, although at local level elected representatives remained in office, in addition to new appointees. Press freedom: No changes to the law, though new laws on sedition have put into question reporting on matters which China sees as The judiciary. The installation of a new Chief justice was welcomed

by both critics and friends of the new government. The courts still appear willing to make rulings contrary to government wishes.

• Freedom of assembly: New laws have been introduced to curtail

made to the history syllabus, eliminating references to the Tananmen

The stock market and other financial markets Not even the Chinese

government would dare mess with the pivotal centres of Hong Kong

freedom of assembly but they have not been used as yet. Educational system: No radical overhaul but revisions have been

What has changed since the handover

bating about that," Mr Tung recently told a businessmen's meeting, referring to the former governor's democratic reform programme. "Now is the time to get on with livelihood issues."

Presenting himself as a nononsense husinessmen tackling the nuts and bolts of issues affecting people's daily lives, Mr Tung has sidelined the once powerful pro-democracy camp who were kicked out of office and are now portrayed by the Chief Executive's supporters as frustrated malcooteots.

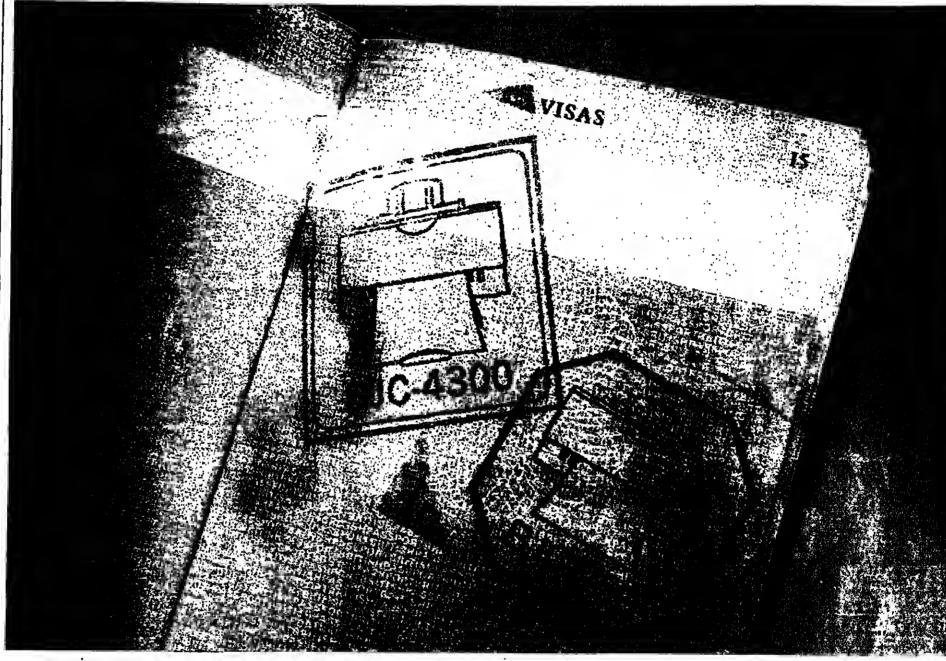
The new government has little patience with the views of its opponents, and unlike the publicity-obsessed Patten administration, spends less time trying to put its views across to the

Mr Tung's approval ratings in the polls remain healthy. He comes across as avuocular and is always ready to flash a warm smile, though he seems determined to address most questions with platitudes that irritate a growing number of critics.

China is clearly pleased by the performance of the man they earmarked for leadership of the new Hong Kong. Everyone in the Chinese leadership from President Jiang Zemin down has pledged personal support for Mr Tang and stressed he remains fully in

Talk of Mr Tung as Peking's puppet has given way to a realisation that he is nothing of the kind, because he oeeds no guiding hand from up north. His views and those of the Chinese leadership are, in any case, virtually identical on most Hong Koog issues to those of President Jiang and his col-

Mr Tung proudly says nothing has changed in the new Hong Kong; it is business as usual. However, things are changing, and often in surprising ways. A sign was the way the Chief Executive, a self-proclaimed believer is free markets, littered his first major policy speech with proposais for government regulations of every description. China says it is developing a market economy with socialist characteristics. Hong Kong appears to be acquiring Socialist characteristics to run its market economy.



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When your baby starts crying, don't reach for that teaspoon

Pain-killers in child dosage are a godsend for quelling vague complaints of 'headache' or 'turnmyache' that are clearly not too serious. But, Nigel Howard asks. are we creating a generation of drug-dependent children?

"Mummy, I don't feel well." Familiar words which stop a husy parent in her tracks. You touch her forehead: a little warm, maybe, but certainly not feverish, Maybe she just doeso't fancy school? Perhaps a cold is on the way? Or is she just tired and emotional? Whatever the reason. she's insisting that her throat/tummy/head burts. You reach for the Calpol.

It is a scene played out daily in homes across the country. For years, liquid paracetamol preparations, of which Calpol is the market leader, have come to the aid of desperate parents. When a child has a fever or an ear infection, for example, these medicines can seem like little short of a miracle. rapidly lowering temperature and easing distressing aches and pains.

But do parents now reach for the Catpol a mite too often - for when a child is miserable or difficult, or has a mild headache or cold, rather than when he or she is ill? New medical research shows this fear may be well-founded; and that paracetamol, if given too frequently to children, can cause more problems than it solves.

Darren was six years old when he started complaining of regular headaches. At first they came on only once every couple of weeks or so but gradually the frequency increased. His mother gave him liquid paracetamol each time and was always careful never to exceed the stated maximum dose. It seemed to work: the headache disappeared, but it always came back. Eventually, Darren was suffering a headache five or six days a week and his increasingly anxious mother was treating each one with one or two doses of the medicine.

Darren's GP could find nothing physically wrong with him and referred the little boy to the nearby Hartlepool General Hospital where Dr David Symon, a consultant paediatrician, has a special interest in childhood headaches.

Darren is one of 12 local children treated in recent months by Dr Symon for severe, frequent headaches. All the children were taking a liquid paracetamol preparatioo or a similar painkiller for every headache and eight children were being given a pain-killer every day.



Dr Symon explained to Darren's mother that her son's problem, and that of all the children attending the clinic, was the result of taking pain-killers too often and that the recurrent headaches were not a sign of underlying illness, hut drug withdrawal symptoms.

Dr Symon, who presented the findings from his work with Darren and the other children at the annual meeting of the International Headache Society, held recently in Amsterdam, says: "Too frequent use of paracelamol preparations and any other

pain-killer can actually cause recurrent headaches in children.

"Calpol is the most commonly used pain-killer in such cases but that is because it is the hrand leader. There are many other pain-killers for children on the market and all can have this effect if they are used too

"Children can suddenly start having migraine or tension-type headaches for all sorts of reasons: perhaps because of problems at home or maybe bullying at school. Parents give them Calpol or similar med-

icine thinking this will help the headache. It does at first, but as the children get more headaches they are given more medicine and next thing you know the withdrawal

effect of the drug is causing the headaches. "Liquid paracetamol is like any other drug. Used correctly it is useful, used excessively or wrongly it causes problems. Calpol is useful for fevers, where it helps bring down the temperature and relieve mild pain, and for headaches as long as it is used infrequently. But when you start laking it virtually every day over a prolonged period, even if you never exceed the recommended maximum dose on each occasion, you are undoubtedly going to experience problems."

The children attending the clinic were treated by first removing all the pain-killing drugs in order to see whether there was any underlying physical or psychological reason for their headaches. The symptoms of all the children improved almost immediately. Six of the children, including Darren, stopped having headaches completely. Two others stopped suffering daily

That'll make it better: but will the cumulative effects of child painkillers given too readily simply make matters worse?

Photograph: Tom Pilston

· pair i

headaches, although they still experienced. the occasional migraine. The remaining four childreo suffered fewer headaches after their pain-killers were withdrawn. Three were referred for psychiatric help and two of these were then cured of their headaches completely.

Dr Symon says: "Our biggest problem in treating these children is often the parents. They tend to be the more annious sort of parent, the sort who are very concerned to do something. They get very upset when we say we need to withdraw their child's pain-killer. Their response is 'How can we leave him or her without treatment? How can we let them go through this suffering?" We have to persuade them that it will be all right, that the pain-killer is actually the problem."

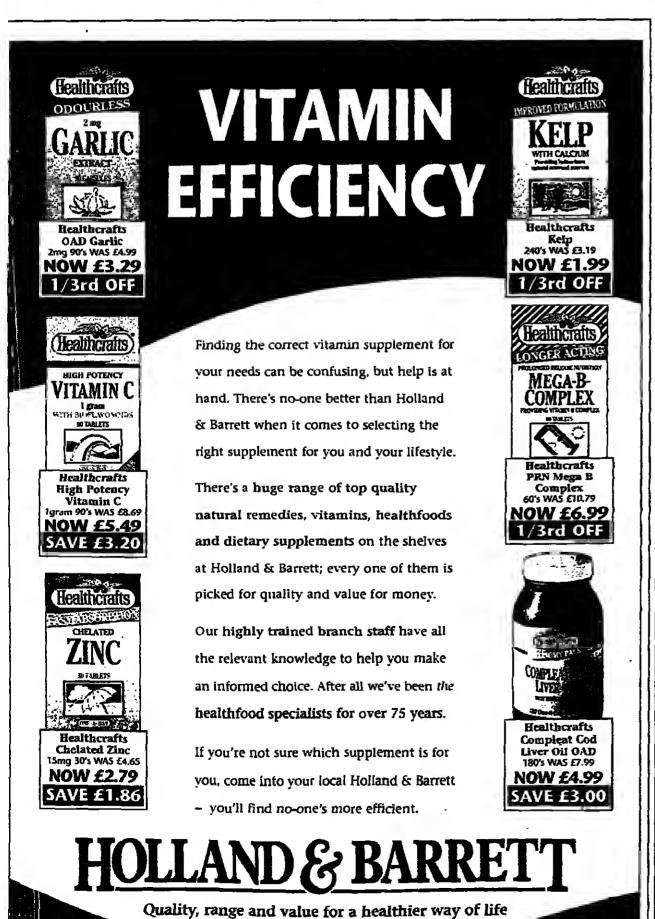
Research has already shown that too frequent use of pain-killers can cause headaches in adults. But Dr Symon believes that recurrent headache in children as a result of 100 frequent use of pain-killers is a common problem and that the children he sees are merely the tip of a very large

He says: "This is an area which has not been studied to any real extent so there is little hard data to go on. However, the fact that I. as a general paediatrician am seeing two such cases a month, indicates that . this is quite a common problem. Possibly many of these children never get near a hospital.

"I suspect that part of the problem is that Calpol and similar pain-killers are all available over-the-counter in the chemists' so people do not think of them as real medicines. When I am taking a case history I am frequently told by the parents that the child is not taking any medicines.

But when I specifically ask about pain-killers, they say 'Oh yes, of course he/she takes pain-killers.' I would recommend to parents that, with headache, you should not give your child a painkiller on more than two days a week at most.

"If the child has more than two headaches a week you should be seeking specialist medical help, not giving him or her a pain-killer."



OVER 400 STORES NATIONWIDE

OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY UNTIL 29/13/97, PRE-SAVINGS PRICES CHARGED AT MOST HOLLAND & BARRETT STORES,



DR PHIL HAMMOND

There are hundreds of good reasons for males to undergo the snip, aren't there? Name one.

Well...

"Now, young man. Just a snip." "Get out of it!!"

"Good God. You're very advanced for a neonate..." TACVADCEC ENOUGH TO KNOW I don't want 20 per cent of my peais skio chopped off. Now clear off."

"But there are lots of good reasons for it... "Name one."

"Well, there is evidence that circumcision reduces the risk of urinary tract infections."

"Perhaps. But urine infections in men are rare and it's bardly a justification for mass

circumcision. "OK, smarty pants. What about sexually transmitted diseases. You get less of them without a foreskin.'

"Again, that's disputed. A recent American study found that it was circumcised men who got more genital infections, probally because not having a foreskin gave them the false confidence to engage in more risky sexual practices."

"And cancer of the penis?" "That's less of a risk with circumcision but, again, it's very тиге апужач...

"Ah yes, but very nasty..." "True, hut washing climinates the extra risk. You don't chop your ear off if it's dirty, you clean it. So why should the foreskin be any different?"

"And so does the foreskin, tt has special nerve endings ... " "Every bit of skin has nerve

"Because ears serve a useful

"Yes, but the foreskin hasn't evolved for no reason. And were you going to use any analgesia." Oh no. Your nervous system is not developed enough to

feel much pain.

"That's odd. Studies from Toronto have shown that newborns suffer considerable pain during this procedure and that five months later, circumcised

boys cry more in response to routine immunisations, suggesting a langer-term effect on pain thresholds. "Those are just the rantings

of the anti-circumcision lobby." "No. It's the hest scientific

evidence available. Even Dr TE Wiswell, an eminent advacate of universal circumcision, concluded that doing it without anaesthesia was 'barbarie'."

"OK then, I'll give you some anaesthetic cream.

want to see your audit figures." WIIV. "Because I want proof that

"It'd take more than that. I'd

you know what you're doing... Trus me... "That's not enough. My pe-

nis is very small and very precious to me. And circumcision is a complex procedure that requires considerable skill. Did you know, the Medical Defence Union has 50 files open on allegations of negligence?" "Such as?"

"Amputation of the penis, damage to the glans and urethra, haemorrhage, infection, poor cosmetic results - you name it, it's happened."

"Yes, hut not often." "A complication rate of 2-10

per cent is enough for me." "Yes, but there are complications of keeping your foresking It's very common for a boy not to be able to retract it....

Yes, and it's very normal as well. Nearly all of them retract with time and virtually none need circumcision." "What alrout phimosis?"

"Scarring and stricture are more of a problem, but even then many resolve with time and hydrocortisone cream. I'd really only want a circumcision if it was causing recurrent infections or I developed BNO."

What on earth's that?" "Ralanitis xerotica obliterans, ti's a rare auto-immune condition characterised by ivory-white patches on the glans and the only absolute indication for circumcision."

"Yes. But on the whole. medical circumcisions are grossly overperformed. They're never justified under the age of three and rarely before five."

"Well I never..."

homework." "Well, you have to he an informed consumer if you don't want to be a fashion victim,"

"You've certainly done your

"Now, run along... "I'd love to, but there's the small matter of faith. Your religion demands circumcision." "Sorry. My nervous system

understand the concept." So that's a definite no?" "It's a definite maybe. I'll let you know at my bar mitzvah."

isn't sufficiently developed to

VITAL SIGNS

Unwashed breasts are best New mothers should not wast their breasts too often if they want to keep their babies happy. A study published in Acta Paediatrica found that at their first suckling, new-borns much prefer an unwashed breast to a washed one. Breasts treated with the amniotic fluid that surrounds the foetus in the womb, scored even more highly with babies, although by five days this preference had disappeared.

the other sin

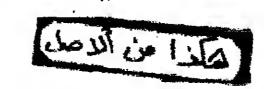
Tooth decay and heart disease linked Gum disease and tooth decay of stroke, heart attack and

can scriously increase the risk pneumonia, according to researchers from Germany and the US. One study involving more than 2,000 patients found that those with gum disease were twice as likely to have a heart attack.

Whether gum disease actually causes heart problems is not proven, but one theory is that the bacteria under the gums may enter the blood stream, triggering inflammation in areas such as the lungs and arteries,

Drug-free cure for period pain Fed-up with taking painkillers for period pain? A new lightweight electronic device, which can be clipped to clothing, is the latest drugfree answer to menstrual discomfort. Priced at £49.95, Femme is a type of TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) machine connected to self-adhesive pads worn on the lower back. Its makers. Shire Design, claim the tingling sensation it provides can reduce pain.





Au pair in America my daughter's ordeal

As a Boston jury hears the harrowing account of the death of a baby in the care of a British au pair, Ben Kingston describes the grim experience of his own daughter. She set out with high hopes and a caring heart and found herself in a situation that too easily could have led to a LouiseWoodward-like tragedy.

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> The trial in Boston, Massachusetts, of Louise Woodward, the British au pair on trial for the murder of a little boy, must send shivers down the spine of hundreds of parents whose daughters are either with American families now, or who may be about to spend a year in America.

In 1993 nur own daughter Joanne travelled to Philadelphia at the age of 18 to take up a placement with a family who had an autistic child. In seeking a suitable family to work with for a year. Joanne had specifically asked for a special-needs child. but within days it had become apparent from our telephone conversations with her that far too much was expected of her. Mowever, it was to be some time before the organisers of the scheme took the necessary steps to find her a more suitable fam-

For many years Joanne had been involved in a number of local voluntary youth schemes, helping the disabled with swimming, wheelchair dancing at a mental institution, and similar challenging situations. Although at university now, she still travels home on some weekends to work in overnight respite care with some very seriously handicapped children. She appears to have a gift for this work. She was, and still is, planning a "special needs" teaching career, and so she jumped at the opportunity to take a year out after sixth form in work with a special-needs child, and at the same time enjoy some foreign travel. he had seen an advertisement in a local aper for an organisation that specialises n the recruitment of British au pairs, usng local agents throughout the UK. Inerested girls are interviewed close to their homes, and once they are accepted ther details are sent to prospective families in the US. The families then make their choce of applicant, and telephone the propective au pair.

late one evening, soon after Joanne had bed interviewed, I took a telephone call from a couple in Pennsylvania. Joanne was away from home that night, and so I had toleme that they had three young children, ontof whom was autistic. They seemed like tionship with the family immediately broke

a respectable family, and the mather explained to me how the help of someone like Joanne would give her the opportunity to devote more time and attention to her other two children.

Within a short time, Joanne was boarding a flight for New York, together with a friend who was taking up a similar position in New Jersey. At the check-in desk at Manchester Airport were a handful nf other girls, all eagerly anticipating their year as an au pair. On arrival io New York, all the girls were taken to stay for twn nights at a hotel, where they attended briefing sessinns, and where they were, in all fairness, made to feel very welcome in the US. From there they dispersed to their various placements, hut after less than two days it was very clear that all was not well with Joanne's situation.

It was immediately made clear to her by the family that she was expected to take care of all three children while the parents were out of the bouse, an event which was a regular occurrence due to the fact that husband and wife were both keen golfers.

The American families themselves can not be absolved from all blame - they are getting child care on the cheap from untrained teenagers

The family had neglected to disclose on their own application form, or to us, that not one, but two of their children suffered from autism to some degree, and they had also withheld the fact that the resultant disruption to the family circumstances had led to severe behavioural problems in the third

Joanne did her level best to control the three children during the frequent absence of both parents in those first few days, but it is impossible for one 18-year-old to cope with three such demanding charges, and she felt that the couple were themselves less than supportive. In all such au pair placements, a local counsellor is supposed to be on hand to deal with any problems and to provide a refuge in their own home should an emergency arise. Joanne had spoken to her own counsellor, who had tried to mediate on her behalf, but she had then persuaded Joanne to stay with the pair for them. The already strained rela-

down, and Joanne was in effect cold-shouldered by them. Her birthday came and went with not so much as a hirthday card or comment. From the start she had not been paid the agreed weekly allowance of \$100, and there was frequently insufficient food in the house for her and the three children.

Eventually, when she told her counsellor that she could take no more of it and wanted to get away from the family immediately, the lady in question told her that she could do nothing for a further two weeks, since she was going no buliday. The counsellor had been away for just a short time when we took matters into our own hands. Calls to the au pair agency had proved fruitless, but as luck would have it, their local representative, who had recruited Joanne, had a daughter who lived nearby in Pennsylvania. Mercifully, she took Joanne into her own home to stay until the counsellor returned from holiday.

Eventually, Joanne was placed with a new family with one child in New York, and she proceeded to enjoy working for a year with someone who appreciated her efforts, and with whom she was very contented. However, we cannot help but consider how much worse things could have heen had something serious happened when Joanne was living with the first family, particularly after they had become so hostile.

While in New York she met other au pairs, with whom she became very friendly. One, a Swedish girl recruited by the same agency, was expected to cope with 10month-old twins, even after she had sprained her ankle, and Joanne frequently helped her during her own free time. Of course, every au pair in trouble has the option of returning home, but that would mean the forfeit of a large sum, plus the expense of a flight home.

No one can know at this stage whether Louise Woodward is guilty or not, but some responsibility must lie with such organisations, who place totally inexperienced young girls in this kind of situation with the minimum of instruction. Nor can the American families themselves he absolved of all blame - they must know that they are getting child care on the cheap from untrained teenagers. They must be aware that they are not leaving their children in the reliable hands of a trained nanny, with all that that implies. These girls are au pairs, who are supposed to be treated as guests of the family, not as the hired help.

We are thankful that eventually our own daughter had such an enjoyable time in America, with a family who were reasonable towards ber, (and who were also very generous). She has had a unique opportunity to experience a different culture at it could have easily ended so much dif-



On the other side of the world my grandfather was dying, but I had to do my job



COCRAPHE CHRIS WATT

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file — Jean In Inc

REVELATIONS

THE TIME: 1994 THE PLACE: London THE WOMAN: Vanessa-Mae, teenage violin virtuoso

My grandfather, Tan Lip Kee, lived in Singapore. As his only grandchild we were close; even though he couldn't speak very much English and my Chinese isn't too good, we still managed to get along.

In a way, I think he was a little bit disappointed with me. He thought I didn't know enough of my Chinese roots because I had grown up as a very Western little girl, living in Loudon for most of my life. At the bottom of his heart he couldn't really understand what I did. He didn't know why I wanted to make violin playing my pro-

fession and he was concerned for my future.

By the time I was 15, he was suffering from cancer. One day we received a call telling us that he was very ill. My mother flew out to Singapore, but I had been booked to do a show in the evening. All through my life, my mother and father had said you must do your job and do it to the end. It's that professional thing and I learned to take great

pride in what I did. That night was to he a big performance. Children in Need had asked me to perform my Toccata and Fugue for the first time on TV, so although I was upset about my grandfather, I had to do my job. The music seemed to lift my emotions, but at the back of my mind I was thinking about grandfather dying in Singapore.

Around that time, I started trying to assert my independence. When you are 15, you want to take more responsibility for yourself and be grown up. One of the things I started doing was looking after my own passport. Now, other people look after it fur me because I

go to so many different coun-

tries, but then I kept it at the bottom of a cupboard in my bedroom. When I finished the show. I went home intent on picking up the passport and flying out tn be with my grandfather. When i got in, I went to the cupboard and found it wasn't there. I turned my bedroom up-

side down looking for it, but still

couldn't find it. Eventually, it

turned up, but by then it was too

late because he had already passed away. I felt very guilty about that night, especially because I had let myself down by not finding the passport. Since then I've learnt how to deal with responsibility, whether it's on an emotional level or on a professional level. Silly things like

last three years of my life. He would have seen that the violin is an instrument that can reach out to touch people and give them some sort of joy. About a year ago, memories nf that time came flooding back. A girl close to my family, who I had known since I was 11, was killed in a car crash. It was shocking because she was only in her early 20s and she

had always been so vivacious

and full of life. About an hour

being in control of your own

passport are not important,

and learning to delegate has

helped me personally and im-

proved my work. But I wish my

grandfather could have seen the

before I was due to go on stage, my mother told me the news, but at that stage it was too late to pull out of the concert. When I went on, I dedicated my performance to her memory. Music is such an emotional thing. On that night I used my

emotions and my sadness to give

times when you bear sad news, you want to rush away and be on your own. But sometimes, thinking about that person and dedicating a performance to them is more important than being silent because you celebrate their memory.

I take my music very seriously, it is my work. But at the end of the day, relationships with family and friends are really, really important things which can never be replaced by success or fame or anything material. I've learnt that when you work hard, you can treat life too seriously. Life can end at any moment, so you should be with people that are close to you and who make you happy. If I manage to live my life like that it will be cool by me.

Interview by Nicole Veash

Vanessa Mac's album 'Storm' is released on 27 October.

'I'm not going to read that, Mummy it's boring'

A surprising number of bright children, exposed to books from babyhood, seem to prefer comics. Why? Is it because their parents have pushed them too hard? Or have they been given the wrong books? Diana Appleyard decided to find out.

Come and look at this lovely book all about chickens," I say pleadingly to my four-year-old daughter, who is visible only as a pair of scuffed bluc shoes, sticking out of the Wendy house my local book shop so thoughtfully provides. "No. I'm playing wiv my Barbie," says the determined voice that comes with the feet. In a choice between books and Barbie, the fluorescent-pink-knickered wonder will win every time.

Like every other parent, I am passionate about making my children passionate about books. The first thing I bought both of them when they were born were bookcases, which I set about filling with all the books I'd loved as a child - Winnie the Pooh, Wind in the Willows, the "Jill" pony books and the Malloty Towers series. As soon as they were big enough to prop upright, I read them stories every night.

Did it work? The bell it did. In bookshops, I drive my eldest daughter mad by

plucking titles off the shelves and saying, "Wow! Susannah of the Yukon! I loved this when I was your age!" "Bor-ing," she says with all the hauteur a nine-year-old can muster, and veers off to pick up a large comic book which features a green man dripping in gore on the cover, with an expletive such as "Urghhh" coming out of his mouth. "Cool," says Beth, and then we have an unseemly wrestle featuring the

words "pocket money" and "rubbish". Meanwhile, as I'm trying to steer my four-year-old towards Spot the Dog and Kipper, she picks up a closely-worded textbook about dinosaurs and seems absorbed.

Do they not know what is good for them? Where did I go wrong?

"Stop interfering," says David Fickling, editorial director of Scholastic Children's Books. "Parents can end up subverting children's natural acquisition of language by forcing books on them."

Whose side is he on? The children's,

of course. "Literature is all about ease of access," be says, "We've forgotten what it's like to be a child, and what is easily accessible at six. If you give them something they find difficult to read you can close the door in their face."

He also says that children inherently distrust anything we recommend to them. "Children suss that we have an in-built censorship. They know they don't get the full monty from their parents, so other children are far more influential. If a friend says 'Read this, it's great', they will. If we say it, they won't."

The latest move in my campaign came this last weekend, by taking them to the children's book bonanza at the Cheitenham Literary Festival. "Don't tell them it's about books," advised David Fickling. So off we trotted, telling my four-year-old we were going to the pictures.

Our first port of call was a talk by Nick Butterworth, who writes the lovely "Percy

the Park Keeper" stories. He strode on to the stage like an overgrown child, and made an immediate connection with all the children, pretending to be a bad magician, telling anecdotes about sore tummies and yucky medicines, acting out and drawing from his new book, Thud. Charlotte, my four-year-old, sat there rapt throughout, and squealed with glee when Percy himself made an appearance. She got to shake his hand, but she carefully explained to me that the real Percy was inside the costume. Ah-hah.

From there it was the Jemima Puddle-Duck Puppet Show. I thought children raised on a diet of Disney videos and Cartoon Network would find a puppet show boring. I couldn't have been more wrong: Charlotte sat riveted to the floor, belting out "It's behind you!" and "There he is!"

We rushed back to see a Spot the Dog film-show, and then Charlie's Birthday Party. This featured a man dressed up as Willy Wonka reading a previously unpublished chapter from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.

Then there was a quiz, which Beth and I cheated at hut still didn't win. This went over Charlotte's head a hit, but it was OK because a woman at the front kept throwing chocolates into the audience. Finally we saw Roger McGough, who

read some of his latest poems. I thought it was great, and snuffed and snorted away to myself, but even Beth found the language too bard to understand. Charlotte spent balf-an-hour trying to get a bit of old chewing-gum off the carpet, and then atc it.

But all in all it was a highly enjoyable day, and next year I'm going to take them for both of the weekends featuring the children's events. What lucky children I have.

"Well," I said, aglow with virtue at the hterature-soaked day my children had enjoyed. "What did you like best, Charlotte?" "The lady throwin' the sweets," she said.

When the palpable meets the impalpable

Question: how do you know when a painting is a piece of Symbolist art? Answer: when it doesn't look as if it's turned out quite right.

So what have the Pre-Raphaelites done to deserve being renamed by the Tate?

Towards the end of Mike Leigh's play, Abigail's Party, Laurence (Bev's husband) makes a last. hopeless attempt to raise the tone. He tries to talk about Van Gogh. "They called him a Post-Impressionist," he announces, trembling, as the evening disintegrates, "but to my mind he was more of a Symbolist." No response from anyone. Then he puts Beethoven's Fifth on the turntable and has a heart attack.

He had a point. But it's a trick you can try on almost every late 19th-century artist. Symbolism, big S, is the broadest and loosest of art phenomena. It easily encompasses Gauguin and Klimt and Munch, Gustave Moreau, Ferdinand Hodler. Arnold Böcklin and many Belgian unists. It doesn't mean a style - it covers many styles. It's associated with mythological and fanrastic subject matter, but not synonymous. It's defined, above all, by a certain tone: roughly speaking, non-specific spirituality and non-standard eroticism, often combined: an art which strains one way or another for the higher and

The sense of strain is important. Symbolism seems an odd case, an art movement that has almost no completely successful examples. But expressive awkwardness isn't just Symbolism's bad luck, it's another of its defining features. There has to be something excessive or something unresolved for a work to qualify properly, a feeling that the art can't quite bring off its transcendental aspirations or can't quite deal

BY TOM LUBBOCK

with the psychic forces behind it. (Therefore Van Gogh generally isn't included.) And that, naturally, is what makes Symbolism so interesting - far more interesting, say, to be a Symbolist than a mere Pre-Raphaelite.

At the Tate Gallery, now, there's a hig exhibition called "The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones & Watts: Symbolism in Britain 1860-1910". The idea is an up for British art not just to show our boys as part of this wide European mainstream, but as an original and driving force in it, and what's more as a direct inspiration to some kinds of Modernist art that emerged from Symbolism (early work by Mondrian and Duchamp, for example). I think the case is made, and pictures by European contemporaries are included to help make it. I'm not sure how much it helps the work itself, though. "Justification by influence" is a dogma of art history but, as for what's on show, one of the most persuasive arguments for the Symholist label is that there's hardly a picture that comes out right. And, putting history aside, what Symbolism in Britain" offers is a chance to revel in a collection of bizarreries.

Rossetti, for instance. Everyone, I guess, now sees that his later works, particularly those meaneyed allegorical female portraits - once thought the epitome of poetical beauty - are up to something extremely rum. Even at the time Holman Hunt found them "remarkable for gross sensuality of a revolting kind", but the word we'd use now is "fetishistic", for the way they dwell so emphatically on individual body parts - the torrents of bair, the gigantic, tumescent necks, the lips that stick to the face like a scarlet motlusc. And, inevitably, the post-Freud viewer wonders if Rossetti really knew what he was doing, and rather hopes he didn't, because an inadvertent giveaway is so much more fun. Well, Rossetti may have lacked the language of



A nice, striking neo-classical album cover: William Blake Richmond's 'Sleep and Death Carrying the Body of Sarpedon into Lycia' Vancouver Museum

psychoanalysis, but it's hard to see how he could have made it clearer.

No. I exaggerate: you can make it clearer. The lips and closed evelids of Simeon Solomon's Medusa are yet more mollusc-esque, and the whole face is rendered as a moist, rippling pulp. with the snakes slithering round it like goose-

necks. But what holds you is that still you can't be quite sure how Sotomon would have answered the question: so, did you mean to intimate genitals? Beardsley, one feels sure, would have taken the point quite in his stride, and that makes him a less curious artist, case-wise, though

a far superior draughtsman.

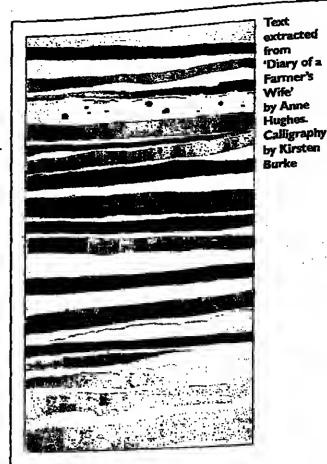
Conversely, one of the things that makes Burne-Jones look rather pointless in this company is that these thoughts don't seem even to half-cross his mind. He does a four-picture sequence on the Pygmalion story, and the interesting business of stone turning to flesh under the sculptor's hand - which is in Ovid and part of the traditional tale - is neatly elided. The statue comes alive in Scene 3 when the sculptor is out of the room, and in Scene 4 he gallantly kneels before her. Or should we see it as a very conscious omission, the reason be does the story in stages? Whichever, the mythological poser - "Did Galatea acquire pubic hair on animation?" - isn't something Burne-Jones is going to answer.

I don't say everything in the exhibition leaves a funny taste. William Blake Richmond's Sleep and Death Carrying the Body of Sarpedon is a nice, striking neo-classical album cover. It helps, though. And for staggering awkwardness, it's George Frederick Watts who provides the show's star attraction. Many times I stopped short in front of a picture, open-mouthed, asking: now, who on earth can have done that? It was always Watts. But then, this is Watts's modern fate. Every time his work gets an outing nowadays, people are at first astonished by its vast spiritual and artistic amhition - and then swiftly have to admit that, though a fascinating enterprise, it's a complete disaster.

Watts was never any sort of Pre-Raphaelite. He always set his sights some way beyond the visible world. In the large set-piece pictures of the 1880s - with titles such as The Dweller in the Innermost, She Shall Be Called Woman, The All-Pervading, The Sower of Systems - he seems to be trying to create the imagery of some vague. homemade religion. It's a William Blake project, with this big difference: that Blake, by using a flat and iconic language, wisely avoided the issue of what the higher world might look like to the human eye. Watts tackled that head on. He attempted to visualise the ineffable, using grand allegorical figures materialising out of mists and glimmerings.

The results are extraordinary, especially She Shall Be Called Woman, but extraordinarily awful, He just can't master the ambiguines he sets himself. He wants the allegory to be clear but the image to be mysterious, and in consequence the palpable and the impalpable get horribly mixed up. The female body rises and dissolves in a murky cloud of vapours, flowers, hair and birds, which turn into a kind of sticky, miasmic fungus around her. The vision becomes physically disturbing, which might be fine in Surrealism and even in Rossetti, but can't be what Watts was after. This picture is one of the exhibition's hig candidates for influence; specifically on Mondrian's early triptych Evolution, which is in the Mondrian show elsewhere in the Tate. The ascending woman is certainly echoed, and it's not a very happy picture either. But Mondrian has completely cleaned away all Watts's visionary ectoplasmic goo, leaving something more Blake-like and diagrammatic - a much safer approach to the other side.

Watts probably realised that the beyond was beyond him. He once compared himself to a boy "who, being asked by his little sister to draw God, made a great number of circular scribbles and putting his paper on a soft surface, struck his pencil through the centre, making a great void" - but said that a picture like that would he absurd. A century later, of course, it wouldn't be so absurd, and it's casy to say that Watts should have been, and was on the road to being, an abstract or indeed a conceptual artist (the God-figure in The Sower of Systems is very nearly lost in the paint swirls). But these anticipation-gambits always end up a bit patronising. It's better to say that Watts, like so many other artists here, was - with the artistic and intellectual means at his disposal - simply attempting the impossible. We can honour heroic failure in the arts as anywhere else. 'Symbolism in Britain 1860-1910' is at the Tate Gallery, London SWI (0171-887 8000) to 4 Jan



Bar snacks for the reading classes

Text is like food and drink to graphic artist Kirsten Burke. And now, she tells Jennifer Rodger, she's putting her writing on the wall at a bar near you

Small wonder that calligrapher Kirsten Burke chooses to exhibit here. All Bar One is no ordinary drinking establishment, Each hranch works to the same basic format: old sprung gym floors, wooden benches, church chairs and cool green interiors create an aesthetic that is at once simple and linnovative, a real revolution in har design. And now Kirsten Burke's calligraphic paintings will be adding their own extra textual dimension to the decor at various Ali Bar One branches around the country. starting this month at

Ludgate Hill. Burke's exhibition offers a contemporary take on one of the most historic yet still unusual forms of graphic design: may even become a talkingdecorative lettering. Her work sets out to challenge some of the most common current assumptions about her chosen art form - namely that it's best left to medieval monks, Japanese scribes or Bar One. "It's something a lit-

greetings card manufacturers. "There is a hang-up in this country about calligraphy," she says, "because it is so rooted in well-known history, like the scriptures. But that's misleading. My work is modern art. Perhaps that is why America is more open to calligraphy as an art form, because it is a country with less

of a history." It was while studying for a degree in graphic design that Burke found berself floundering between two disciplines: typography and illustration. Accidentally stumbling upon an art review featuring Donatd Jackson. calligrapher to the Houses of Parliament, she knew she had found her medium and went on to study calligraphy as a post-graduate.

"I really like the integration between the two areas which I had been studying at the time. It enabled me to make letter-forms into visual images, to be legible in a shared language as well as a visual one. It means that, if one way fails, then there is another way that the picture can communicate. I suppose you could call it abstract art with an explanation."

In her work, Burke comhines decorative script with an image that also illustrates her chosen text. One quotation, for example, is taken from Shakespeare's Othello - a vitriolic outburst against the "devil" drink: "Drunk? and speak parrot? and squabble? Swagger? Swear?... " Her splattering of shades of red and orange is like the spilling of a glass of red wine in an angry gesture.

Another image offers a blue wash that goes down the page like cold, running water with the words written over it: "I saw him even now going the way of all flesh, that is to say

towards the kitchen." The emotional impact is heightened by Burke's use of blue food colouring to create the vivid coldness of choosing food over passion, while comic-book lettering hints at the image's humorous twist.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the theme of the All Bar One shows is "Food and Drink". But the quotations used have a more general currency. evoking places and feelings that most people will recognise. "The quotes I picked are part amusing and part intense. But, in the end, it must be pleasurable," says Burke, "just like drinking in a bar is.

Some of her chosen texts gain in weight and charm by being placed in this particular context. For example: "Not drunk is he who from the floor can rise and still drink more. But drunk is he who prostrate lies without the power to drink or rise." Literature in hitesized form fits well among people chatting and snacking at the bar and point. Burke hopes that her work will "mspire people to read".

my Pelling

That's a thought echoed by Jill Hembling, the general manager of the Ludgate All tle bit different and hasn't been done before by us. It will give something back to the regulars and will give people something to talk about or read while they're waiting for a drink or friends."

On picking such an unusual venue, Burke says: "I chose to show my work here as I think it fits well with the looks of All Bar One. The bar has a very minimalist interior, like a gallery, but I can also use the fixtures in the bar to complement my work or hang it on." In fact, her pictures will hang above the punters from the steel-boxed extractor fans and station-clock. "I'm just hoping it doesn't freak out or knock out!" she says.

That's unlikely. Although this is the first time an All Bar One has shown original art, the chain has already held a successful fashion show at its Canary Wharf hranch, "Because it is a bar, it avoids the suggestion that you have to be a certain type of person to enjoy tooking at art," says

As Habitat, Paul Smith and countless cute cafés all hegin to display original art work, white even poems adorn tube trains, Burke hopes that her exhibition will continue to "promote a friendlier model and up-todate view of calligraphy and art in general. This exhibition is a hit of an experiment, so it will be interesting to see the response."

So for anyone who still thinks of calligraphy as just something you find on your Certificate of Merit from Sunday school or basket-weaving class, it's high time to think again. And for anyone who still thinks that bars are just in the business of selling booze, watch out: the writing's already on the wall at All Bar One.

Junk lost, treasures found

Robert Rauschenberg and Margaret Mellis use unwanted fragments of their environments in their work ... with very different results, writes Richard Ingleby

However you look at it Robert Rauschenberg has played a major part in the art of the past 30 years. Not just in his native America, but here as well, a living link to Duchamp and his ready-mades, gathering junk from the streets and turning it into paintings and sculpture. He's currently the subject of a true with the recent work of Marvast retrospective across New York (three venues and severat hundred exhibits) and a rare commercial show of work made from 1994-1995 at the Bernard Jacobson Gallery in London

It's good to see his work on this side of the Atlantic, although on the strength of these recent pictures it's hard to see where his importance lies. Like all his work they incorporate found bits and pieces, in this case the pages of catalogues, comics and magazines ~ "The images that abuse and assault contemporary America," as he puts it, transferred by computer on to canvas and painted

over with fire wax. Some of the titles, like Treasure and Wonder, suggest that the Ives in 1939 - the pictures which

assembted hits might, like his silkscreen collages of the Sixties, add up to some sort of whole. One wants them to have a meaning, or at least to tell a story, but they don't seem to, except perhaps as a reflection of the fragmentary nature of modern times. This would explain 'Shales", the exhibition's collective tide, but as ideas go, it seems a bit thin for a man of Rauschenberg's standing.

Art, of course, doesn't have to be about anything. It's just when it seems to be about something and that something turns out to be nothing that it gets a hit frustrating. The opposite is garet Mellis. Like Rauschenberg, she works with found fragments of the world in which she lives, in her case hits of broken boats bleached by the sun and the sca and washed up near her home on the Suffolk coast, hits of nothing, in other words, that she turns into new and consistently surprising somethings.

The current exhibition is a smaller and better selected version of the retrospective that opened in Edinburgh earlier in the year. It begins with a self-portrait and an early landscape from her student days in the Thirties, but the first works of note are the series of paper and card collages made soon after her arrival, in St

best anticipate the driftwood constructions that she has been making for the last 20 years.

These carty cottages owc something to the company she kept, particularly Gabo and Nicholson, and even after she moved away from St Ives in 1946 her friendships with artists like Patrick Heron and William Scott seem to have defined the course of her career. It's not that ber work is derivative, there's a certainty to what she does that's entirely her own, but it's impossible to look at these pictures without thinking of the Cornish

connections. This retrospective covers a long and productive career. She's in her eighties now and, extraordinarily, it's the most recent work that looks like the best, or at least the most resolved and uniquely her own. There is joy in her driftwood constructions that's all too rare these days: a sophisticated understanding of colour and form, but also a quirky originality and continual inventiveness which makes the likes of Rauschenberg look a little stale.

It's a fine exhibition. Robert Rauschenberg's 'Shales' is at the Bernard Jacobson Gallery. 14a Clifford St. London WI (0171-495 8575) to I Nov; Margaret Melus: 4 Retrospective is at Kupil Jariwala. 4 New Burlington St. W7 (0171 437 2172) to 15 Nov



'Wonder' by Robert Rauschenberg, 1994; a reflection of the fragmentary nature of modern times? Or a meaningless assortment of bits?

a 63 0 0 ●

Philip Ravenhill

Philip L. Ravenhill, anthropologist and museum curator: born Bath 2 June 1945; Director, West African Museums Project (Abidjan, lvory Coast) and Senior Research Fellow International African Institute (London) 1982-87; Chief Curator, National Museum of African Art (Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC) 1987-97: married Judith Timyan (two sons, one daughter; marriage ived); died Washington DC 13 October 1997.

ens file on

Party stand

belly-dancer

AT IN A RANK

To say that Philip Ravenhill's death was untimely is no overstatement. The National Museum of African Art, Washington DC - where he had worked for the last decade - is in the throes of marking its 10th anniversary. Ravenhill's celehratory exhibition showing donated works of African art has just opened.

He was also due this week to present an important communication in Amsterdam on protecting the African heritage. A major exhibition reflecting NMAA's developing collection of works by contemporary African artists, which he was largely responsible, was being planned. He was still young and still taking on new ventures with undiminished energy.

Ravenhill was in at the start of the NMAA in its new premises, joining shortly before the extraordinary addition to the architectural and museological delights of the famous Mall opened to the public. He, together with Sylvia Williams (the first director), Roy Sieber and Rosalind Walker (the current director), gave the new institution its style, its adventurous acquisitions policy and its consistent high quality of mibitions.

Ravenhill's uphringing, however, was not exclusively in the United States. He was born in England, in Bath, and received his early education at Portora Royal School in Enniskillen when his parents Ravenhill robust moved to Co Fermanagh. His Photograph: Franko Khoury

father was a Methodist minister with evangelical leanings which eventully took the family to Bible-belt America, where he completed his schooling. I once asked him, half jokingly, whether his American citizenship was an insuperable impediment to ever persuading him back to work in Britain. He chuckled in his familiar way and replied: "No problem. Sure, 1'm an Ulsterman reatly."

He remained committed to work in Washington, but he was amenable to joining the Peer Review panel looking at the British Museum's exhibitions in 1995 and last year he gave an important talk on aesthetics as the British Museum's annual William Fagg lecture. He brought to his work at

the NMAA both an enviable knowledge of African art and also a very considerable experience of African museums. This was invaluable in situating his institution in an international as well as as a national context. His work in Africa hegan in 1972 whilst he was a postgraduate at the New School of Social Research, New York. He moved to Ivory Coast and began a lasting association with the University of Abidian during which he focused on what hecame his leading interest, the anthropological approach to visual culture,

His work was principally conducted among the Wan, Baule, Lohi and Guro, Indeed the two monographs by which he will perhaps be best re-



memhered deal with the art of the Baule - in particular his book Dreams and Revene: images of other-world mates umong the Baule, West Africa (1996). Although this is a much-writtenabout field, the depth of Ravenhilt's anthropological knowledge placed him in a special position as an interpreter.

In all of this time he was in direct contact with artists, he made films about Ivorian art. and he also worked extensively with museum collections in Africa itself. He had an increasing sense of the frustrations of African museums, often given low priority by ministries of culture, with somewhat demoralised staff and static collections: sometimes with diminishing collections through theft.

But Ravenhill was far from throwing his hands up in despair and disengaging. In 1982 he tinked up with the local representative of the Ford Foundation and began developing small projects in the field of cultural preservation and education. From this emerged the West African Museums Project, now Programme (Wamp), which he set up, initially in Abidjan, and which he directed for the five years before his move to Washington. The International African Institute in London was enlisted to provide an independent international context.

Wamp developed a particular philosophy. Its intention was not to try to make up deficits in national governmental funding. It sought rather to co-ordinate attention to common problems and use small grants to encourage significant local initiatives in the cultural and educational field. An exhibition in a small museum in the African countryside on the tsetse fly was more likely to gain Wamp support than a request from a national museum for, say, a state-of-the-art furnigation chamber. This was a refreshing antidote to the paternalistic sentiment or political correctness which so readily crowds out proper professionalism.

In his time at Wamp Ravenhill worked with well over 60

different museums in 14 countries in West Africa helping design and support projects to improve training and research. working with collections and linking museums to their local communities. He became one of Air Afrique's best customers.

Wamp's work goes on. It has now evolved further into an African NGO, with a Nigerian chairman, a Beninois director, and a secure base in Dakor, Senegal. But it still retains a philosophy of engagement which Ravenhill set out as its original intent, and he continued an active role in shaping its future.

It was typical of him that, in attending the conference on 11licit Trade in African Antiquities this week, he was intending 10 take a robust and challenging approach. His view was that unquestionably museums must co-operate to stem the increasing tide of looting of archaeological sites. Beyond that, however, there are the wider and still unresolved issues of how to further intellectual cooperation between the international museum and academic community and African archaeologists or museum professionals. That too, he was intending to say, needs to be part of the wider strategy.

Over the summer I learnt of another of his talents. He generously suggested that my family might stay in his house on Little Cranberry Island off the coast of Mainc. He had designed and largely built the timber-framed house himself. Ravenhill was clearly in tune with Rudolf Steiner's principles of craftsmanship. Partition walls were at odd angles, rounded portholes gave unexpected views on to the living space beneath - all of which, he confessed, he had worked out whilst recovering from malaria.

He had very considerable skills as a carpenter and clearly took great pleasure in practical things. Indeed, he was also working at the time of his death on his new house in Washington with his companion of recent years, the art sion, her life encapsulates the historian Massumed Farhad. .. cultural history of Spain after



Mirö: her life encapsulates the cultural history of Spain after Franco

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

Pilar Miró

Pilar Mirò, film director: orn Madrid 20 April 1940; Head of Cinematography, Ministry of Culture 1982-85; Head of Spanish Broadcasting 1986-89; (one son); died Madrid 19 October 1997.

The dictator Franco had been dead four years, but Pilar Miró had to fight for another three, until 1981, before her film The Crime of Cuenca - deeply offensive to Spain's military establishment - was given permission to be shown. It was the box-office hit of the year.

Born into a military family, she was a rehel from the start, junking law for film studies and joining the Spanish Socialist Party the moment it was legalised in 1976. As a woman, a single mother, who triumphed in a male-dominated profes-- John Mack . the dictatorship fell in 1975.

Miro became Felipe Gonzalez's image consultant during the 1982 election campaign that swept the Socialists to power. The combination of youthful modernity and political moderation that the young Socialist teader projected caught the public mood and kept him in power for 14 years.

The new government promptly put Miró in charge of the Spanish movie business, and within a year she had given Spain one of the most liberal film censorship laws in Europe - hard-core porn cannot be shown to under-18s, but all other ratings are simply for guidance. She also struck the first deal between the movie business and the state-run Televisión Española, strongly

favouring Spanish films. The law with which she was most associated, the "Miró Law of 1984, introduced an extraordinarily generous system of subsidies that encouraged an

explosion of young talent in the 1980s "movida". Spanish producers could obtain from the authorities up to half the estimated cost of their films in advance. The handout was repayable, but out of further subsidies. Extra money was available for films deemed of "special quality" and even more for high-cost projects. A European Commission official commented at the time; "If 1

and go and make films." One effect was to boost artbonse movies at the expense of vulgar but popular sex comedies that had been the industry's staple since the early Seventies. Another effect was the ballooning of production budgets. Pedro Almodóvar shot to fame during her reign, but the number of films made in Spain dropped by half. In 1989 her law was cancelled and its generous

terms trimmed back sharply.

Miro took charge of the

were a Spaniard I'd quit my job

Spanish radio and television monoply RTVE in 1986, hut quit under a cloud in 1989. Accused of using the corporation's money to huy clothes and iewellery for herself and presents for her friends, she paid back four million pesetas (£20,000) and, after a protracted court case, was acquitted of all charges in 1992.

With a string of prizewinning films to her credit, she became best known for her live broadcasts of the weddings of the two royal princesses, Elena in Seville in 1995 and Cristina just over two weeks ago in Barcelona. To television audiences used to juddery, intrusive camera work, she introduced standards of filmmaking that won her plaudits throughout Spain, and especially from King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, who came to pay their respects after her heart attack on Sunday.

. - Elizobeth Nash

Henry Pelling

Henry Mathison Pelling, istorian: born Prenton, heshire 27 August 1920; Fellow and Praelector In Modern History, Queen's College, Oxford 1949-65, Tutor 1950-65, Dean 1963-64, Supernumerary Fellow 1980; Fellow, St John's College, Cambridge 1966-80 (socius ejectus 1980), 1980-97; Assistant Director of Research (History), Cambridge University 1966-76, Reader in Recent British History 1976-80 (Emeritus); FRA 1992: died Cambridge 14 October 1997.

Henry Pelling was a nononsense, no-flourishes historian of modern Britain for whom history was a matter of fact. When in his celebrated review of A.J.P. Taylor's English History 1914-45 (1965) Pelling

of the social and economic aspects of his subject, and for his alleged carelessness with fact, it was no doubt the latter dereliction that pained Pelling more.

There was nothing flamboyant about him. Everyone's idea of a Cambridge don (or for that matter an Oxford don), he was happier in the company of his college colleagues than in the public forum. Past master of the devastating quip and meter-out of the harbed oneliner, shortly before his death he mentioned that he needed to send a letter to his colleague, Professor X. Would I bring him an envelope and a postage stamp? Pause, while he licked his lips. Then: "A secondctass stamp will be sufficient."

"Pelling here," be would answer on picking up the phone, and sounded forbidding. But he wasn't. Not al all. Though dry he was not arid, as took Taylor to task for his neglect

some college bachelors tend to hecome, given time. The children of his Oxford colleagues named their hamsters after him, because for all the outward appearance of austerity be delighted in his colleagues' families, submitted cheerfully to the rigours of their Christmases, regularly enquired the progress of their children, and when those children were growing up would invite them to things and make a great fuss of them. There were occasions when he seemed to be missing something, sometimes quite keenly.

The son of a stockbroker. Henry Pelling was at Birkenhead School between the ages of six and eighteen and in 1939 entered St John's College. Cambridge. Reading Classics, he gained a First Class in Part I of the Tripos before departing for war service in the Royal Engineers. Returning to

Cambridge in 1947 he was awarded a starred First in Part II of the Historical Tripos. In 1949 he migrated to Oxford to a Fellowship at Queen's College. Pelling often recalled that, whereas Queen's told him to hring black rie, the LSE, where he was also under consideration, promised to reimhurse him his train fare. What he did not recall, and this was most uncharacteristic, was whether or not the LSE had been prepared to convey him first class.

His Oxford years saw Pelling at his most prolific. Between 1954 and 1963 no fewer than nine of his sixteen books were published, among them his America and the British Left (1956) and The British Communist Party (1958), as well as studies of the American labour movement and British trade unionism and his widely renowned Short History of the never the same again and after

Labour Party (1961), now in its 11th edition. Although he was prevailed upon to serve as Dean of Queen's in 1962-63, writing and research occupied him almost entirely. On being asked whether he had any problems and answering that. yes, his gas fire didn't work, a freshman was disconcerted to be told by the Dean that his didn't either. Very Pelling.

In 1966 he returned to Camhridge as Assistant Director of Research in History and to the Fellowship of St John's where he spent the rest of his life, and, despite having some 40 research students under his supervision, remained highly productive. In 1971, however. he suffered a severe stroke and despite all that he wrote thereafter, including his enormons hiography Winston Churchill (1974), he was really

an accident in 1994 became increasingly frail. Even so, a combination of

his own iron determination and the care that his college was able to provide enabled him in the last year of his life to see his last book, Churchill's Peacetime Ministry 1951-55 (1996). through the press. Nor was there any diminution of the terrier-like commitment to the cause of accuracy which had earlier set him in pursuit of the likes of Palme Dutt, Oswald Mosley and their posthumous

apologists. In his Who's Who entry he chose to describe himself as "socius ejectus" of St John's, referring to the hrief lapse of his fellowship in 1980. The puckishness was typical on two counts, revealing both the allusive and the pernickety in him. The allusion was to Thomas Baker, the non-juror Fellow of

self as "ejected" in the early 1700s. As to the rest, suffice it to say that not everyone at the time saw it Pelling's way. "Dash it all," he would say, as he often did. Pelling was as widely known

for his genuinely good will as

St John's who described him-

he was for his seriously bad puns. Secretly generous, he made a great pretence of being careful with his pennies. When psephology was invented, he was there lying in wait for it, his The Social Geography of British Elections 1885-1910 (1967) constituting a pioneering contrihutfon to the subject. Before long the bookies were in dread of him, eventually refusing to take his bets on elections unless he would also bet on the horses. Even so he made a killing on the size of Labour's

recent majority. When I last saw him, two



Pelling: puckish

days before he died, and was alarmed by the uncharacteristic absence of newspapers and asked him (more or less) how he was filling his days, "I have taken to listening to The Archers," he replied. "I may say I cannot make much of it." Given time, he would no doubt sooner or later have detected error in the affairs of Ambridge too.

-- Peter Linehan

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

ARRIAGES WILKINS / PRATT: On 11 October 1997, Harriet to Simon, at St Chad's Church, Bishops Tachbrook.

ARMSTRONG: Professor Arthur Hi-lary, peacefully, at Hereford Gener-al Hospital, on 16 October. Funeral at Freshtat, on to October, Funeral at 12 noon in Ludiow Prinsh Church, 24 October, Family Bowers, donations for Bardsey Island Trost Appeal, c/o G. Hirron, Funeral Director, Wheet-pring Chem. Programs of the Chem. wrights Shop, Bromfield, Ludlow,

MEMORIAL SERVICES

PITTENGER: A memorial service for the Rev Dr Norman Pittenger will be held in King's College Chapel, Cam-bridge, on Saturday 8 November at 2 30pm. All welcome.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birets, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The in-dependent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 or faced to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette an-nouncements must be submitted in nouncements must be are charged writing (or faced) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They sh be accompanied by a daytime tele-

Birthdays

Sir Malcolm Arnold, composer, 76; Mr Geoffrey Boycott, cricketer, 57; Mr David Campese, rughy player, 35; Mr Norman Clarke, Emeritus Secretary and Registrar, Institute of Mathematics, 81; Miss Maureen Duffy, novelist, 64; Miss Carrie Fisher, actress, 41; Mr Simon Gray, playwright, 61; Lord Grieve, a former Senator of the College of Jus-tice in Scotland, 80: The Rev Peter Hackett SJ, former Master, Campion Hall, Oxford, 73; Dr Evan Harris MP, 32; Miss Natalia Makarova, hallerina, 57; Mr Peter Mandelson MP. Minister Without Portfolio, 44; Mr Manfred Mann, musician, 57; Professor Sir Roy Marshall, former High Commissioner for Barbados, Miss Nadia Nerina, former prima ballerina, 70; Mr John Stevens, HM Inspector of Constabulary, 55; Lord Thomas of Swynnerton, histo-rian, 66, Mr Francis Warner, poet and playwright, 60; Dr Elsie Widdowson, nutritionist, 91.

Anniversaries

Births: Katsushika Hokusai, painter, wood-engraver and printmaker, 1760; Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet

and writer, 1772; Alfred Bernhard Nobel, industrialist and founder of the Nobel Prizes, 1833; Sir Georg Sold (Gyorgy Stern), conductor, 1912: Leonard Rossiter, actor, 1926. Deaths: Edmund Waller, poet, 1687; Horatio, first Viscount Nelson, killed at Trafalgar 1805, Jack (Jean-Louis Lebris de) Karouac, poet and nov-elist, 1969, Bob Todd, actor, 1992; Burt Lancaster (Burton Stephen Lancaster), actor, 1994. On this day: the Franco-Spanish fleet was defeated at the Battle of Trafalgar, 1805; the first British nuclear submarine, HMS Dreadnought, was launched, 1960: 140 lives were lost when a slagheap collapsed at Aberfan, South Wales, 1966. Today is the Feast Day of St Condedus, St Fintan or Munnu of Taghmou, St Hilarion, St John of Bridlington, St Malchus and St Tixla.

Professor Carel Weight A memorial evening for Professor Carel Weight CH CBE RA (1908-1997) will be held at the Royal Academy on Sunday 16 November at 7pm. Those wishing in anend should inform the Secretary's Office in writing. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London WIV ODS.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEPTEN 15
The Prince of White, so behalf of the Oueca, bokis
niswesthere at Buckingham Pathocc bone a reception for the General Outcomittle Crusted 15 Ligness,
planes; as President, the King's Prince, beets a lecture,
"integrated Healthcare" — a way forward for the non"integrated Healthcare" — a way forward for the nonline grant and afterwards hands in integration at St.
James's Pakence and, as President, the Prince's Irrat,
attends a neception to thank components of the trust at
the Royal Antoniobite Cub. Lundion SWI. The
Challeng Royal, President, Sweet the Children Fand, the

Changing of the Guard

LAW REPORT: 21 OCTOBER 1997

Damages not subordinate to other creditors' claims

Damages recoverable by a member of a company in proceedings against the company for negligent misrepresentation said to have induced the member to purchase his shares from a third party were not sums due to the member "in his character of a member" within section 74(2)(f) of the Insolvency Act 1986, and would not, therefore, be subordinated to the claims of other creditors of the company.

Soden and anor v British & Commonwealth Holdings pic (in administration) and ors: House of Lords (Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffman, Lord Hope of Craighead) 16 October 1997

The House of Lords dismissed the appeal of the administraagainst the decision of the damages.

Court of Appeal dismissing their appeal against directions given by the trial judge in an action for damages for negligent misrepresentation brought against Atlantic by British & Commonwealth Holdings plc.

In 1988 B&C had bought the whole of the share capital of Atlantic for £434m. Atlantic and B&C had both subsequently gone into administration. B&C had brought proceedings against, inter chia, Atlantic (the main action) for damages for negligent misrepresentation said to have been made by Atlantic to induce B&C to acquire its shares, and against Bardays de Zoete Wedd Ltd (the BZW action) for damages for negligent advice given in relation to the acquisition of Atlantic's shares. BZW had issued third party proceedings against tors of Atlantic Computers plc Atlantic for contribution and

In March 1994 the court ap- B&C's claim nor that of BZW proved a scheme of arrangement to which B&C was not a party which provided that, subject to the payment of preferential liabilities, the scheme assets should be distributed pari passu between the scheme creditors broadly on the same basis

as if Atlantic were in liquidation. Neither the main action nor the BZW action had yet come to trial. In the present proceedings the administrators had applied to the court for directions, inter alia, whether the damages and costs recoverable by B&C and BZW if the actions succeeded would be subordinated to the claims of the other creditors of Atlantic by virtue of being sums due to a "member of the company (in his character as a member)" within section 74(2)(f) of the diestone Linoleum Company Insolvency Act 1986. The trial judge had held that neither Distributors (Aust) Ptv Ltd v State

would be subordinated to the claims of the other creditors. Robin Potts QC and Professor Dan Prentice (Cameron McKenna) for the appellants; William Stubbs OC and Catherine Roberts (Stephenson Harwood) for the respondents.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said that in the absence of any contrary indication sums due to a member "in his character of a member" within the terms of section 74(2)(f) were only those sums the right to which was based by way of cause of action on the statutory contract hetween the members and the company in section 14(1) of the Companies Act 1985.

Great reliance had been placed for the administrators on the decisions in In re.4d-(1887) 37 Ch d 191, and Webb

of Victoria (1993) 11 ACSR 731, in both of which it bad been held that a sum due in respect of damages payable for breach of contract or misrepresentation made by the company on the occasion of the issue, as opposed to the purchase, of its shares was excluded by the section.

There was, however, nothing in Addlestone to justify the application of that decision to cases where the claim made against the company was founded on a misrepresentation made by the company on the purchase of existing shares from a third party. To allow proof for such a claim in competition with the general body of creditors did not either directly or indirectly produce a reduction of capital. The decision in Webb stood on exactly the same footing.

The appeal would be dismissed.

- Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

They may like to be beside the seaside – but not with each other in con



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It is an irresistible vision: Ann Widdecombe on a quad hike, wearing her "Hague" basehall cap hack to front, charging over the Eastbourne sand dunes, while Bill Cash and Sir George Young shoot each other with paint pellets, leading teams of MPs called

Sceps and Feds. A Conservative spokesman tried to throw us off the sceot of what is really happening at today's think-in and booding session for MPs in the Grand Hotel, claiming that war games and "primal scream therapy" are off the agenda. What a pity. Instead, the twoday eveot is being billed as a "conference" which will debate issues as the Tory party adjusts to opposition.

But we all know what this kind of "conference" really means. Every large organisation these days sends its eotire middle and senior management on awaydays at country hotels to build team spirit and the co-operative ethos. There are workshops, seminars, brainstorms, plenary sessions -- and embarrassing games designed to get people to know and trust each other. Then they stay no all night and drink a lot.

When the memo comes round from the boss announcing that everyone will attend (no spouses), hearts sink. Do we have to? they all complain, knowing that they most go. Tory MPs, on receipt of William Hague's letter in July, responded no differently, instantly regretting that they had elected a former McKinsey's management consultant to the leadership. The grander ones found that -- sadly - their diaries were booked solid through to Octoher and beyond. Michael Heseltine was asked if a prior engagement prevented his attendance. "I'm sure there must be one," he said airily. Sir Edward Heath is on a speaking tour in Japan. John Major is "too

busy". Only one MP has offered oot-

right defiance. Nicholas Soames said he refuses to go "on principle", although he was unable to say exactly which principle prevents him.

Then, in every office, there are the jokers who subvert the whole husiness with irony. Alan Clark said: "I wouldn't miss it for the world." The ooes who really need to be watched, though, are the enthusiasts, the ones who were never allowed to ride go-karts when they were young, or who really do want to discuss corporate rehranding.
In all, the Eastbourne thinkathon

offers a fascinating insight into the present agonies of the Conservative party. The clash of cultures is audible 60 miles away. The black-tie culture of England's old social élite (Soames and Clark) meets the haseball-cap culture of modern British management. Note that the old culture won the right to alcohol during proceedings. Bot the new culture has the

upper hand. Mr Hague's deputy party chairman is Sir Archie Norman, the mao who turned dowdy Asda supermarkets into a stock-market phenomenoo with a can-do, egalitarian formula - first-name badges for all staff and no chairs in meeting rooms to get decisioos made fast.

In this culture, executive awaydays are the absolutely standard way of effecting change in organisations. Indeed, easy though it may be to mock, they are often valuable exercises -at the very least they let off steam and give people a hreak.

But there must be doubts as to whether the methods used by commercial companies or public-sector service providers such as the BBC are right for a political party. Getting Teresa Gorman and Kenneth Clarke to free-associate on "globalisation", or to listen to a presentation by Sir Tim Bell on "advertising around the

ALL-SPINNING

ALL-LEAKING

CHANCELLOR.

world", is oot going to make them realise suddenly that, after all, what unites them as Tories is infinitely more important than what divides them.

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医水水素 人名英格兰斯

The whole point about MPs is that they are argumeotative, fissiparous, in egocentric and unmanageable. So they should be. They hoddle together in parties for reasons of self-interest and ideology, oot team spirit. They have to understand that they must behave like a united team, that they must preseot a convincing front to the public, but it is fruitless to try to make them like each other. And they have just had the most valuable lesson in the need for public unity - a crushing defeat.

So, once the Tories have worked out what they need to do to regain the trust of the electorate, perhaps they should go on an awayday to somewhere other than the Costa Geriatrica, do a bit of orienteering and make a more convincing show of working as a team.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@indepcndent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Town and country

Sir. You report the claim that "more urban building would mean 'town cramming' and the loss of parks and playing fields" ("Historic challenge to the nation's green belt", 16 October).

Where high environmental quality is achieved, densely populated city suburbs are much sought-after, not least because of easy access to culture and leisure. Well-maintained squares also add value and take up far less space than the treeless green deserts which accompany lowdensity suburban housing.

Paris and Milan make new public parks the centre of their regeneration policies. In Britain, depopulating cities are made worse by acres of dysfunctional green spaces. We seem only to care about quantity, never quality. We have a Countryside Commission dedicated to creating better access to the countryside for recreation hut no agency gives the same attention to the green spaces near to our homes.

Saving the countryside from urban sprawl cannot be done until we improve urban quality. ALAN BARBER President

Institute of Leisure and Amenity Managemeni Bristol

Sir: Your article on the Hertfordshire green belt housing plan and the responses from the Royal Town Planning Institute and Hertfordshire County Council (Letters, 18 October) draw attention to the growing confusion of interests between neighbouring local authorities.

The proposed housing estate will lie underneath the eastern flight path from Luton airport. Luton Borough Council, the owner of the airport, has recently given planning consent for the airport to expand passenger usage and air traffic. Two county councils, three district councils and other town and parish councils have commented on the plan, mainly because of noise pollution, but with mention also of increasing pressure on the Green Belt.

With the larger more important plans, is the present sysiem of local planning authorities, often with conflicting interests, good enough to provide the fairest results for the communities affected? ANTHONY FLIND King's Walden, Hertfordshire

Lords reform Sir: I am an independent peer.

In its enthusiasm, your leading article on Lords reform (16 October) failed to recognise that the present House is working well, that it is not a party chamber and should never compete with the House of Commons; and that it must preserve its one-quarter element of independent or cross-bench peers even in a reformed chamber. It has long been agreed

even by Conservatives that hereditary peers must go, even if some are created life peers. There will be, as you say, "absorbing debate" about it. next year or the year after, but there is nothing contentious here. The real issue is whether any such change can be carried out without corresponding constitutional reform or threat to the present composition of the House. I hope that it can, by allparty consensus, but many

peers are wagging their heads about available parliamentary time even for manifesto commitments. They have, of course, seen it not happen before. The Earl of SANDWICH Beaminster, Dorset

PRIESTLEY

Cold handshake

Sir: The idea that influenza and the common cold are spread by handshakes followed by rubbing of one's eves, rather than by coughing and sneezing, bas interesting and far-reaching consequences if true (report, 16 October).

We should see marked differences in the patterns of incidence of these diseases from one social group to another depending on whether bandshaking was a common mode of greeting.

Schools and Army barracks are often thought of as places where epidemics can explode. Yet school children do not rou-

tinely shake hands with their friends when they meet, nor do members of the armed forces, a salute rather than a handshake being more common. Handshaking is the normal mode of greeting in the business and financial sectors - if the hypothesis you report were really valid, a winter epidemic could decimate the financial world. The cheapest way to prevent such a disaster would be to legislate against handshakes rather than continue the prac-

vaccines! Influenza pandemics in the past have led to tens of millions of deaths the world over, and it is conceivable that a new pandemic could be with us any day. We need to deal bonestly with all the facts relating to

tice of doling out ineffective flu

Professor CHANDRA WICKRAMASINGHE Professor Sir FRED HOY'LE

Criminal justice

Sir: It is pleasing to win recognition for the openness and enthusiasm of the Criminal Cases Review Commission, as noted in Paul Donovan's article "Still no answer to the riddle of appeals" (15 October). I would. however, like to make it clear that we have clarified our policy with regard to the admissihility of cases.

Our mission is to investigate suspected miscarriages of criminal justice. This means that we do not operate rigid thresholds over which applicants must first pass. It is generally recognised that it would be quite inappropriate for the Commission to limit its statutory remit.

Mr Donovan also expresses concern that we will "go too far", and become inquisitorial in our approach to investigations. The Commission is determined to do justice, and at es effectively and expeditiously. In some cases, accordingly. the Commission has to conduct thorough and searching enquiries. Inevitably, there will be occasions when one or other aspect of our investigations will prove barren, but as the body of last resort our job is to look into each case and carry out a thorough review, until we are satisfied that we can come to an informed and fair decision. GLENYS STACEY

Chief Executive, Criminal Cases Review Commission

Ungreen trees

Sir: Shell Oil's claim that its industrial tree plantations are a green, renewable energy source (report. 17 October) has no foundation in fact.

Recent research has demonstrated that such rapid-growth plantations, largely monocultural and highly chemical-de-

Latin-lover

Sir: "You'll die," cried my Latin teacher with all the conviction of a man who smoked 60 a day. "but this will live on for ever." Exultantly he waved a copy of Vergil's Aeneid before collapsing in a paroxysm of coughing. Vividly be expressed and lived those values of gentlemanly scholarship which you describe in your editorial (18 October). i did not buy that at the age of 15. Fifty years later it is only for its usefulness that I value the Latin I learnt then.

Many years later I was to visit Venezuela on an assignment. Most of those with whom I: worked spoke no English at all. Unable even to ask the walter for the hill. I felt humiliated Back home I enrolled to learn Spanish. It was like meeting an old friend after long separation. "Llamo, llamas, llama ..." intoned my teacher. Where had ' I heard that before? BRIAN LOY

Menston, West Yorkshire

Underfunded?

Sir: "Underfunded scientists. sell expertise abroad" (11 October). It all depends on what you mean by underfunding. The optoelectronics team at Southampton have enjoyed £20m of support over the last 10 3 years for their research from the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. They have a current grant from the Council for £6.4m, giving two more years of existing support. They are then welcome (and are indeed being encouraged) to apply for future support from the council on exactly the same basis as everyone else. Professor RICHARD BROOK Chief Executive

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Swindon, Wilishire

Ethical investment

Sir: Is the Nationwide Building Society's decision (report, 17 October) to force carpetbaggers to assign their bonus payouts to charity the start of a moral revival amongst financial institutions? Will the supercarpetbaggers in the City assign the profits of their speculations to charity - the beginning of the end for the "fat cats"? JOHN EVANS Marlow, Buckinghamshire

the same time to deal with cas-



MILES KINGTON I once had a homosexual friend who was always great company, but whom I no longer see, mostly because he emigrated to Australia years ago. 1 don't think he referred to his sexual orientation much except once when he asked me curiously if I had ever had a homosexual

"No." I said, "Apart from one or two teenage attractions homosexual experience?" to boys with dimpled looks." "Did you ever fell them that

experience.

you fell attracted?" he said. "Of course not." I said. "I wasn't that attracted."

He sighed. Well, he said, "I really think you ought to seriously consider having a homosexual experience before it's too late. See what life

A handbagging for Oscar Wilde: the lofty image, the sordid reality is like on the other side." "Before it's too late? How

do you mean?" Before your looks all go. dear. Won't last for ever. you

back into the past again. "I went through a phase of great hero-worship of Oscar

I ignored this and peered

He sighed again. "Erervone does that. You dun't have to be gay to be an

Oscar fan."

Wilde. Does that mount as a

So it would seem at the moment, when everyone is trying to explain why the memory of Oscar Wilde is suddenly having a revival and everyone is saving how marvellous he was. Well, not quite everyone.

Brian Sewell in the London Evening Standard does not think Oscar Wilde is marvellous. I had always assumed, without knowing why, that Brian Sewell would be pro-Oscar Wude. Mr Sewell, like Wilde, is a slightly mannered, extremely effective and amusing gadfly of the conventional and dreary Modernist art establishment, and indeed what provokes bim into print about

called Maggi Hambling. On 12 June 1997, in the Evening Standard, Mr Sewell did not spare Ms Hamhling. "A painter of poor sons" ... "harely competent draughtsman ..." making sculptures which are

Oscar was a modern art object:

Wilde, designed by a painter

"the sort of heastly things a hotel might huy to add a little interest to potted plants and jars of gladioli" and which "revealed not the slightest talent, intelligence or skill". This was the woman whu was invited to design a memorial to Oscar. Brian Sewell has seen the

design. He does not like it. Not at all. "Even a homosexual deserves better than this tasteless insult," he says. Hmm. When Mr Sewell is in a mood like this, nobody a proposed memorial to Mr

He has ever since heen, as it escapes with ungrazed knuckles. Oscar Wilde himself gets off more lightly than Ms Hambling, but not a lot. "Why are we so obsessed with this man!" asks Mr Sewell.

were, a bugger's icon." Passing on swiftly from what must be the most unusual use so far of that over-used word "icon", I think that what infuriates Mr Sewell is what would "There is a national sense of infuriate most sensible peoguilt that, for sodomy, or

fellatio, or mere affection for a ple: namely, that there is such pretty boy, we sent him to a large gap between the way prison in 1896, breaking the Oscar Wilde wrote and the way he behaved, or between the hrilliant hut pathetic butterfly upon the wheel of pretended way be portrayed bimself and the way be was perceived. mural outrage ... In threatening the family at the highest Sometimes it was the same; social level by consorting with many people who knew him women as well as men - found the son of a ferocious Marquess, and by betraying bis bini utterly charming, attentive own wife and children in casual and irresistible. Sometimes it relationships with working-class was quite different. Oscar Wilde claimed to be an aesmen and boys, Wilde broke all the rules, rashly, openly, thete, a lofty quivering poetical brazenly - and paid the price. soul, which did not quite tie in with his sordid sexual private life. Or, took put it another way:

pendent, take a severe toll on

water tables, hiodiversity and lo-

cal economies. They impover-

ish soils, rutblessly suppress

other growth and are unlikely

to he sustainable beyond a lim-

ited number of cutting cycles on

the same site. The assertion that

they do not result in a net ad-

dition of greenhouse gases to

Sir: Perbaps we could all ask

Norman Tehbit whether bis de-

finition of a family [Column One,

20 October) includes "a moth-

er and her ebildren, abandoned

by their father, living at the

same address (bed and breakfast:

sorry, no council houses left [" or

the ever-popular "a Tory MP, his

wife and his mistress living un-

der the same roof".

OWAIN MORGAN

the atmosphere is unproven.

Sturminster Newton, Dorset

LARRY LOHMANN

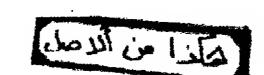
Family values

"In his trial. Oscar Wilde launched himself into a long speech holding up the 'love that dare not speak its name' as a love that is pure. For all 1 know such love may exist, hut

the time to go on about it is not when there has been read out in court a list as long as your arm of boys you never met except in heavily curtained rooms in Oxford.

Those are the words of Quentin Crisp, in a wonderful book called How to Have a Lifestyle, which was published in 1975 by Cecil Woolf and has never been read by anyone I have ever met. Quentin Crisp is a homosexual and a wit, a stylist and an aesthete of sorts, bul he is very different from Oscar Wilde in most other ways, including the fact that he knows much more about the ways of the world than Oscar Wide ever did.

More of him and Oscar tomorrow



Back in control? Blair and Campbell's big idea is ... honesty



ANDREW MARR TURNING OFF THE SPIN

If politics yields morality plays, then this was one. In order to choke off a spate of stories about British entry into a single currency, caused by off-therecord briefing, or "spin", the Chancellor gives an interview -straightforward, pretty clear, up front. And then? To get the desired headline, his spin-doctor, Charlie Whelan, briefs journalists off the record about the on the record interview. His "spin" deliberately over-intemprets Gordon Brown'a rather blander words, to rule out entry during this parliament; and is, in turn, later partly denied by yet another cabinet minister.

So, to disentangle themselves from spinning, they can only spin harder and more furiously, becoming more entangled. And, since Mr Whelan is now going about denouncing allegations about his involvement as "lies", let it be duly reported that he was overheard doing his latest bout of news management in the Red Lion public house at the bottom of Whitehall on a mobit phone on Friday night. Pienty of other people have been involved in this strange that his spokesman should break story, including two ministers; hut Mr Whelan's mobile phone and affable bellow have briefings openly, on the record been hard at work too, and not for the first time on this story or, indeed, in that public

Why should any of this concern you, the reader? First, hecause the subject under debate will have big implications for most people's prosperity and the future government of the country. And second, betuse media management by taks is becoming an embarrassment to parliamentary

The curious thing about this episode is that the Government is more united, at least, about monetary union than the previous one, and has been struggling with questions of timing and presentation, rather than principle. If the singte currency is established, and almost everyone thinks it will be, and is a success (more dubious) then Britain will join.

The simple question at the heart of the yo-yo'mg stock and money markets has been shall we go in early or shall we go in a little later?

Part of the Government's problem has been that it has wanted different audiences to hear different things. From the early days of the election campaign, Mr Blair has been using a tub-thumpingly patri-otic rhetoric for the Murdoch press, particularly the Sun. Meanwhile, in other parts of the woods - where the audience has been the City, or continental politicians, or liberal Europhiles - the message has been markedly more pro-Eu-

Stories and briefings have been tailored for the prejudices of the media outlets being addressed. And the trouble is, of course, that we live in a small country, where Financial Times journalists read the Sun and vice-versa: this is not a game which can be played for much longer. If it is, then the contradictions will simply pile up in the cuttings, month by month, year by year, until the new Labour government is accused of Wilsonism.

What Blair needs to do is not simply to bark at a few young ministers and ministerial minders, but to reassess the relationship between tactics and strategy - to care less about the views of different newspapers and proprietors, for instance, and lay down a hard and vigorous line, which is then more clearly explained from the start, even to people

In the Emu case, had there

been one message, one stress,

the problems wouldn't have

arisen so damagingly. There

would have been no need or

reason for briefing or counter-

hriefing. So is this simply about

hubristic clever-clogs getting

their inevitable come-up-

pance? Was this the moment

when the conflicting messages

collided in mid-air, crashed,

and spun, swirling to the

ground in a trail of cigarette

smoke and four-letter words?

great thing for this government

pened again. Good govero-

and cheering to report, Tony

Blair and Alastair Camphell

have been discussing the

learn

lessons

such a collision never hap-

Partly - and it would be a

episode, alarmed by the damage done by junior sources, who are then elevated into important voices by journalists, while hiding behind anonymity.

Better still, they have turned their minds to the idea that Mr Campbell, as the Prime Minister's spokesman, should break convention and start to conduct his daily briefings openly, on the record.

Their early conclusing is that it would do little damage and quite a lot of good - for government, not just for themselves. They are absolutely right. At the moment, we have a wide array of people described by journalists as senior ources" and the impression is given of a pseudo-democracy of

rival voices who speak for that

amorphous, confused being

known as "the Government". So someone from the Treasury or the Ministry of Defence or the Welsh Office can be quoted in print as "a senior government source". If they say something Blair regards as hooey or hizarre, then his denial via Downing Street merely pits another anonymous senior source, albeit from Number Ten, against the first one.

So far as the reader is concerned, they can sound equally persuasive. Who really speaks for the regime? No-one quite knows. That was part of the trouble in the Emu story. If Blair's spokesmen went on the record every day, that would make the position, and the true hierarchy of power, clear.

It would provide the public with definitive, checkable re-

sponses from the core of

Government. There could be

no doubt as to which was more

ter from an unnamed individ-

ual, whether a junior minister

or a departmental spokesman;

or the declared position of the

Prime Minister, conveyed

openly through his spokesman.

ward, and something for which

The Independent has long ar-

gued. It is just the kind of thing

that we were repeatedly told

was impossible under the Con-

servatives - even though they

suffered grievously from

anonymously-sourced, rival

stories. It is, in short, a neces-

cited, however. There would

still be plenty of anonymous

turn the chemical key in the

lock properly and thus restrain

the schizophrenic insurance

another sense. Nowadays giv-

ing drugs to schizophrenic pa-

tients is often the sole method

used to control the illness. The

prevailing view is that schizo-

phrenia is organic in nature, a

disease of the brain and prob-

ably genetic in origin. The pa-

tient is disabled and requires a

sheltered environment plus

medication. This contrasts with

the conventional wisdom of 30

years ago when stressful events

in early childhood were be-

lieved to be a major factor. In

its crudest formulation, it was

said that families caused schiz-

ophrenia. The appropriate

treatment, therefore, was psy-

chotherapy or what are known

more graphically as the talking

Medication is important in

We shouldn't get over-ex-

sary reform.

It would be a great step for-

Blair has turned his mind to the idea

convention and conduct his daily

briefing, for such is life and politics, and always will be though at least we'd know what came from the top and what didn't. The television cameras would not be allowed in, as I understand it, because Mr Campbell doesn't want to become any more nf a national figure than he already is - the messenger mustn't be higger

than the message.

What, finally, about that larger criticism, that the Prime Minister and other senior ministers must stop trying to address different audiences differently? Any Prime Minister who wasn't pervous about the power of the Murdoch press, and sensitive to public worry about monetary uninn would be a fool: and yet, if we are going to join Emu at some stage, then a confrontation with News International and the Daily Mail is probably inevitable. With the Conservative Euro-sceptics divided and scattered, this is the moment to move the argument decisively on. If not, the anti-EU movement will regroup, recover, and be a much higger problem for Blair in one or two years' time than it is now.

So whatever the timing of our entry, and the political strategy surrounding it, surely the time has come for a proper, detailed expression of its European thinking from the Government, linking the currency question with the constitution. It would need to start from an open acknowledgement of the full implications of Emil. Contrary to some recent ministerial effusions, this concerns power, and institutions, not merely labour markets and economic cycles.

In the end, Blair will choose audacious hut practical pro-Europeanism. He often takes a long time to settle his mind; but when obliged to choose, he opts for the radical option.

So I think that the triumphalist anti-Europeans in the press and elsewhere are triumphing a little prematurely. It is commonly said of Blair "real" - an off-the-record mutthat, almost whatever your view, you leave his company thinking he agrees with you. Those who say so don't watch him carefully, or listen intently enough. He is not a naturally confrontational or abrasive man; his signals of dissent are modest hut, in time, unmistakeable.

> And from now on, the anti-Europeans should watch him particularly carefully. For forced to choose hetween Murdoch's favours and Europe, he will choose Europe. That is the sensible option. For Murdoch can harm him; but an anti-European policy would destroy almost everything he wants to achieve in politics.



Alastair Campbell: emerging into the light Photograph: Kevin Coombes

ANTHONY

BEVINS WHITEHALL

PRESS OFFICERS

The whinge from the Whitehall information machine, about a hapless press officers being "purged" by Lahour stormtroopers, has been extremely well-focused over recent weeks. If their spin is to be believed, they are as fine a body of men and women as any to be found in any profession in the land; they have been providing a selfless service in Thry Ministers and the media for years and now, out of the blue, they are under threat. So far, seven heads of departmental press offices have gone, and others are said to anticipate early departure.

The claim being put about by some is that Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's chief press secretary, wants to turo the Government Information Service into a pro-Labour propaganda machine, modelled on the highly successful team that backed up Labour's election campaign. It would be a pity if the separate row over Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's garrulous spin-doctor, and the European single currency, was allowed to obscure the re-

With many honourable exceptions, and they know who they are, the existing Government Information Service is a waste of time, space and cash. As a generality, their service to Ministers has been awful, and their service to the media has heen abysmal.

On the off-chance that this might be seen as the sort of critical assessment you might expect from a non-Conservative newspaper, Saturday's Daily Telegraph provided a corroborative perspective from the Right. After 18 years of Conservative government, it found it easy to understand why Labour, and some journalists, were exasperated by Whitehall press officers. "This par-

ucular hrand of civil servant is as old-fashioned as a bowler hat, and as unyielding as an umbrella. He (or she) refuses to leak stories, produces turgid hriefs devoid of catchy soundbites, takes up to a week to answer phone calls, and feels queasy at the thought of any spin. Other infuriating habits include leaving promptly at 5pm every day, just when news stories are breaking, and believing that their duty is to their profession, rather than the media nr the politicians."

Many press officers have seen their role as the guardians nf information, with-holding it, rather than as disseminators of information the public has a right to know. It is, after all, the public's information, just as much as it is the taxpayers' money these people are dealing

The best press officer will always anticipate and volunteer information. But most of them would prefer to let you stah around in the dark, and retain their precinus informatinn about their person. That was their power, their glory, and now, if they face a come-uppance, that is no more than many others faced during the Thatcher revolution of the

A problem would arise if Alastair Campbell were planning to turn these civil servants into lapdog Labour propagandists. But he sees it as his task to make the service more pro-

Most of them would prefer to let you stab around in the dark, and retain their precious information about their person. That was their power, their glory

fessional, giving better service to Ministers, media and the public, not least by getting them involved in the initial consideration of policy.

In a letter to all information service colleagues, on 26 September, he said that media "handling" of any policy had to be huilt into the decision-making process at the earliest stage: "As a policy is devised, how it will be explained and communicated should be an integral part of the process.".

Mr Campbell has also told colleagues that he sees it as the joh of a press officer to answer factual questions with facts. If it works, some reporters would see that as an improvement.

The point is not what causes schizophrenia, but how to control it



WHITTAM **€**MITH CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

people commit homicides. These acts are usually classified by the courts as manslaughter rather than murder on the grounds of diminished responsibility. There seem to be about 25 such incidents every year. Jayne Zito, whose husband was killed by a schizophrenic, has set up a trust, the Zito Trust, which collects these figures.

unit in a Bristol hospital.

key word in the account. By medication is meant the use of tranquilliser drugs. They act as sedatives and reduce responsiveness to external events and may also diminish anxiety. Without the use of these drugs, discovered in the 1950s, there could have been no closing down two decades later of asylums or mental hospitals and sending their patients out into the com-

For the drugs in question are pharmacological straitjackets.

A small minority of mentally ill They are not curative. In effect backing for its assertions and they resemble the mechanical restraints - locks, bars, chains - that were in use up to the middle of the nineteenth century. When an enlightened superintendent arrived at the County Asylum in Lancashire in 1840, he congratulated himself on removing 19 tons of iron bars and gates and other restraining devices. In a sense, the staff concerned in the Bristol case stand accused of having failed to

After the trial, there generally follows a report. Often the failings of hospital staff and social workers are the centrepiece of the findings. In the case of Sarah Benyon, a 22 year-old insurance clerk, who was undergoing treatment for schizophrenia when she killed her father, the recent report argued that Benyon's medication was poorly monitored, the risk she posed was not properly assessed and she was foolishly given leave from a mental health

Actually, "medication" is the munity to be cared for there.

This humanistic hypothesis lost ground partly because it failed to provide statistical

partly because advances in the neuro sciences, with the help of computers and brain scanning, seemed to hold out great promise of finding a physical explanation. Families rebelled. too, at being hlamed and in the United States, the National Alliance for the Mentally III was formed to rebut such notions. However no organic mark-

er has been discovered which determines whether a patient is or is not schizophrenic. Postmortem examinations alone have never identified a schizophrenic sufferer. Two centuries of work, conducted with great intensity over the past 15 years, have as yet come to nothing.

The effort will continue, but it is unfortunate that researchers in this field, cut off as they are from actual patients, adamantly refuse to attribute any significance to what sufferers from schizophrenia might say about themselves. Their hallucinations, their delusions, their strange talk, their inexplicable silences, their thought disorders are all dismissed as the meaningless results of convulsive electric brain storms. Attempts to make sense of schizophrenic discourse are seen as a waste of time.

Yet at a hig, international symposium for the psychotherapy of schizophrenia held in London last week, ample evidence of the good results of working directly with sufferers was provided. Professor Max Birchwood from Birmingham University described his direct approach to delusional thinking. He argued that it was possible to engage people in a dialogue about their disordered beliefs and experiences in such a way that the individual could stand back and reflect on his or her mental life.

Professor Birchwood does

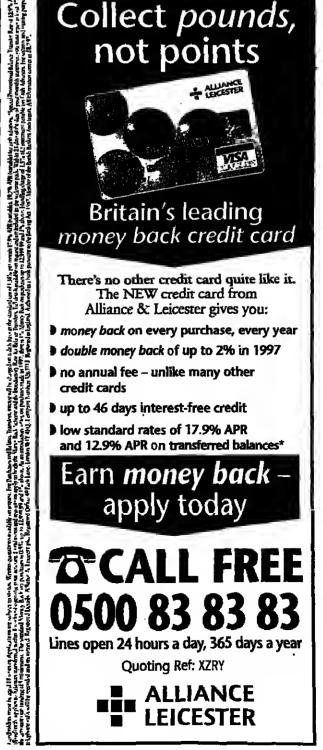
not refer to "patients" - whose role it is to take expert advice - but to "clients", with whom you collaborate. The aim is to promote a mastery over distressing symptoms, such as hearing voices. For instance, by recognising the cues or triggers for the onset of voices, "clients" may be able to exert some control over them and even switch on or off, say, the dead father's voice. This is not Freudian analysis, in which the attempt is made to bring submerged memories of childhood traumas to the surface but an exercise in engaging the sufferer in his or her own cure. The results are often a substantial diminution in the occurrences of schizophrenic symptoms.

Competition between the two notions of mental illness that I have described has been a feature of psychiatry for two hundred years. Biological psychiatry was dominant throughout most of the nineteenth century, peaking at the time of Alzheimer. Then Freud took the subject in the other direction, until the pendulum turned again in the 1960s. This is not a nuanced argument of fine distinctions; if one hypothesis is true, the other cannut be.

Nonetheless, there is a middle way which, while it cannot possibly resolve the age old mind/body dichntnmy, can facilitate progress in handling schizophrenia. The method is to combine medication with therapy. Neither approach has yet been able to provide a cure, but both can alleviate the distressing symptoms of schizophrenia in their different ways.

Why not use them together? In fact dual treatment has nften been advocated, but rarely put into practice because the cost nf psychotherapy is significantly higher than the costs of drugs. It is the sheer quantity of psychotherapeutic work that cannot often be afforded under present health budgets. Typically a psychotherapist may have to work with a single sufferer for four sessions a week over a period two years and sometimes longer.

The Department of Health is beginning to take this on board. To the extent that it was able to promote and finance a dual discipline approach, there would be beneficial effects, not just for the mental health of the sufferer but for the community as a whole. And in due course, Mrs Zito would see a decline in the homicide figures



KPMG and Ernst & Young plan £llbn merger

KPMG and Ernst & Young jumped on the accountancy merger bandwagon yesterday, proposing a tie-up that will create the world's largest audit and consultancy firm. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports on the concerns the deal has raised among staff and clients.

The merger mania sweeping the accountancy profession intensi-Ernst & Young said they were planning to join forces. The need." combined firm would leapfrog rivals Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse, which announced a tie-up only last month.

The proposed deal will atworld, especially coming so soon after the other planned accountancy mega-merger between Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse.

KPMG and Ernst & Young denied that the announcement was only a spoiler to wreck the marriage plans of its rivals.

If it receives regulatory approval, the deal will knock Coopers/PW into second place and Andersen Worldwide into the as yet unnamed firm into third. It will create a firm with worldwide revenues of more than \$18bn (£11bn), 163,000 staff and almost 13,000 partners.

In the UK, the enlarged firm would audit almost one in four of the companies in the FTSE 100 index. If both the tieups announced in the last month go ahead, almost 90 per cent of the country's 100 leading companies will be audited by only two firms.

ed to put pressure on Andersen Worldwide and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, the only two of the as stand-alone businesses, to discuss a link.

Nick Land, senior partner at Ernst & Young, denied the adequately on their own." firms had been burried into an

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announcement by last month's Coopers and PW merger. He also refuted claims that the deal represented a U-turn from his position last month when he highlighted the competition issues raised by the marriage of Coopers and PW.

yesterday as the inevitable consequence of the increasingly global demands of the firms' clients. "As our clients expand into new markets, they expect us to have the global abilities fied yesterday as KPMG and and resources to provide them with the specialist services they

to be a major feature of the link, with both firms claiming to be in need of more good quality staff. Mr Land admitted, howtract the attention of competi- ever, that the uncertainty tion watchdogs around the caused by the deal would probably lead to "a higher than usual rate of attrition". Last month, he was quoted as saying he was confident of picking up staff following his rivals' merger announcement,

Mr Sharman said he was reasonably confident the merger would clear the regulatory hurdles. If the deal gets a green light from the regulators in Europe and and US, it would catapult pole position. Its revenues would outstrip the \$13hn that Coopers & Lybrand/Price Waterhouse generate and Andersen's \$11bm

The planned merger was greeted with scenticism by the firm's clients, who are worried that the reduction of choice implied by the consolidation will outweight any benefits provided by the new group's larger scale.

the deal as "a serious restriction of choice, particularly in the UK. both in audit and consulting." former "Big Six" firms to remain He added that the merger "does nothing for me as a customer. Any of the firms has sufficient resource to service us Outlook, page 23

Colin Sharman, chairman of KPMG International and chairman-elect of the enlarged business, defended the merger

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, pressed the button to launch the Stock Exchange Electronic Trading Service, the market's new order-driven system, yesterday. Ten minutes later, the market was almost 120 points down. Shoky stort for SETS, page 27

Brown Monday sends shares down and the pound higher I

The City gave the Chancellor a firm thumbs-down over the confusion generated by informal briefings about Government policy on the single currency. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, describes how "Brown Monday" took the pound back to levels sure to alarm exporters.

The financial markets met this weekend's indications that the nals that the Government has Government had pulled back all but ruled out single currency

movement in the weeks since the earlier reports that the pound might join soon after the first wave. As widely predicted, the pound leapt higher and shares and gilts fell sharply in price.

Within 10 minutes of the opening of the new Stock Exchange trading system by Gordon Brown, the FTSE-100 index had plunged more than 118 points. It recovered to end 60 points down, at 5,211, in light trading on the inaugural day of On the other hand, the sig-

up nearly four plennigs to DM2.89. Its index against a range of currencies gained a full point to reach 101.5.

This jump coincided with a new survey showing that confidence among exporters has fallen to a five-year low while the proportion of husinesses favouring UK membership of and financial services, the flexthe single currency has climbed to two-thirds from just over a half a year ago.
Nick Butcher of DHL In-

ternational, which carries out the quarterly survey, said: "This latest move in the exchange rate will leave exporters dissatisfied: from early British membership of membership during the cur- They want to see stability in the

pound." One in five of the 1,000 firms surveyed said they would lay off employees if the pound stayed at its current level.

Mr Brown emphasised the need for a period of stability and repeated his five economic tests for UK membership of EMU: the impact on jobs, investment ibility of labour markets and the convergence with member

He said an announcement about the Government's approach would be made first to . Parliament.

But City analysts were critical of what was widely seen as the

EMU by reversing much of their rent parliament took the pound currency markets and a weaker Chancellor's mishandling of the policy pronouncements. James Barty at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell said: "It is sensible to rule out joining the single currency until after the election, but this has been a very odd way to do it."

Michael Saunders at Salomon Brothers had even more succinct advice for the Government. They should shut up. The more they say, the more confusion they sow," he said.

Some City experts warned that the pound could move even higher if figures due later this week showed that the economy expanded too fast for the Bank of England's comfort in the third quarter. If the official

STOCK MARKETS

astie Utd to set growth figures are as strong a relevision channe many fear, they would increase the chance of a further in crease in interest rates, which

is could be worth

EUI2m Canadian

Fielecom shares

could in turn boost the pound. However, yesterday brough a sign that the economy could be starting to come off the boil with figures showing a dip in consumer confidence.

The level of confidence is mains as high as it was in October 1987 but respondents to the October survey for the European Commission had clearly become less optimistic about the outlook for the economy during the next 12 months

Outlook,page 23, Market Report, page 25.

the new group's larger scale. Asian tigers in retreat as stocks tumble and currencies slump to new low

The tenth anniversary of the 1987 Black Monday stock market collapse hung heavily over East Asian markets as share prices tumbled again yesterday providing an unpleasant reminder of how bad things may get if the sell off of Asian equities and currencies continues. Stephen Vines reports from Hong Kong.

While most market makers said that the Black Monday anniversary and yesterday's sharp fall in Asian markets was little more than a coincidence, they were quick to pull down their charts to reassure themselves that the nightmare was not re-

In Hong Kong, the blue chip Hang Seng Index fell 630

points, the eight largest single uid, nor easier to use for ob-vestors are bracing themselves day fall on record. However, in percentage terms the damage does not look so bad as the market was down less than 5 per cent, compared with the disastrous 33 per cent fall after the Black Monday collapse.

The problems in Hong Kong stem largely from two factors. On the one hand, a rise in mortgage rates, leading to a predicted interest-rate hike, has taken its predictable toll on share prices, while on the other hand the territory's market is perversely suffering from its high degree of liquidity.

The real problem", says James Osborn, director of sales. at ING Barings Securities in Hong Kong, "is the collapse of other Asian markets" which has forced fund managers to turn to the territory to raise funds for redemptions as fund investors bail out of the Asian markets and head elsewhere.

taining quick cash infusions. for a full scale devaluation af-Hong Kong's liquidity was underlined yesterday as turnover nounced late last Friday that it in the stock market rose to HK\$17.2bn (£1.4bn). In Thailand, the heavily bat-

tered baht slumped to a new low on news that Thanong Bidya, the finance minister, was resigning in protest against his inability to get the government to implement measures to secure the International Monetary Fund and World Bank \$17.2bn (£10.6bn) bail-out.

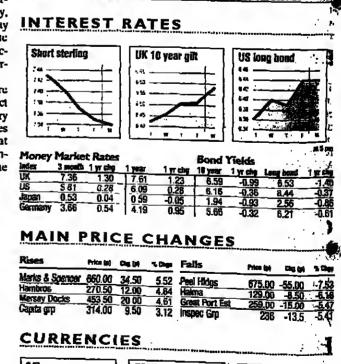
His resignation, the seventh of a finance minister in the space of two years, fuelled a demonstration in Bangkok yesterday calling for an end to the shaky coalition government headed by the former military chief Chavalit Yongchaiyudh. The baht slid below 38 against the dollar as share prices fell almost 3 per cent.

There was a bigger currency shakeout in Taiwan where in-

ter the Central Bank anwould no longer be intervening in the market to support the local currency. The New Taiwan dollar fell over 3 per cent, to a 10-year low against the US dollar while blue chip share prices

pluaged by almost 4 per cent. In Malaysia, where Anwar Ibrahim, the finance minister and deputy prime minister, had delivered a supposedly market-pleasing budget on Friday. investors responded yesterday by following the decline of the Thai stock market and reducing the value of the local cur-

rency by some 1.5 per cent. International investors are clearly unsettled by the prospect of leaving funds in a country whose prime minister abuses them and has now decided that an international Jewish conspiracy is at work to undermine the Malaysian economy.



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No other market is more liq-£573m Brazilian ice-cream for Unilever and Viennetta in Brazil, where the ice- there has been speculation that the An-Unilever, the Persil detergents

and Walls ice-cream giant, has made its first big acquisition since the £5bn sale of its speciality chemicals business in May. It is paying £573m for Brazil's largest ice-cream company in a deal that will make it the market leader in South America. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, discovers that analysts expect more "bolt-on" deals from Unliever, rather than

one huge takeover.

Unilever is acquiring Kibon, which controls 60 per cent of the Brazilian ice-cream market with brands such as Fruttare, Kibonbon and Ao Leite. It is buying the business from Philip Morris, the American tobacco and food group, a month after it acquired Philip Morris's ice-cream business in Argentina. Unilever plans to introduce brands such as Magmum, Cornetto cream market is growing rapidly. Ice-cream consumption there is only

one litre per head. This compares with analysts said smaller deals like this were three to five litres per head in neighboring countries such as Chile and Argentina, five to eight litres per head in Western Europe and 20 litres in the United States. The Brazilian ice-cream market doubled between 1994 and 1996. It is now worth £1bn a year and Unilever predicts it will double again over the next decade. "If they £46m on sales of £204m in the year to Ocdrink Coca-Cola, I have no doubt they will buy Magnums," one analyst said.

The acquisition is in line with the strategy announced by Unilever's chairman, Niall FitzGerald, at the beginning of the year. He said then the company would concentrate on growing its "starred" product categories such as margarines, detergents and beverages with particular emphasis on emerging markets. Yesterday be said: "This is an important acquisition for Unilever. It opens up good growth opportunities that will lead to sustained value growth."

£3bn following the sale of its speciality chemicals business to ICI in May. Though

glo-Dutch group might use the firepower to acquire a major US food company. "I'd sooner 10 deals like this than one

hulk," said David Laing, food analyst at brokers Henderson Crosthwaite. "It is exactly what one had hoped they might do. This husiness is a collector's item." Kibon achieved operating profits of

tober 1996. The deal includes Philip Morris's half share in the Sorvane business in North-east Brazil which recorded sales of £42m that year.

Unilever has been in Brazil since 1929 but pulled out of the ice-cream market several years ago. Its 60 per cent share there will dwarf the size of the next largest player, Nestle, which has 20 per cent. Unilever has been competing around the world with Nestlé as well as Mars for dominance of the market. Unilever has been expanding fast in Latin America. It entered the Unilever was left with a warchest of over Chilean market in 1993 and since then has entered markets such as Venezuela,

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OUTLOOK ON MONETARY UNION KPMG'S MARRIAGE PLANS AND UNILEVER'S BRAZILIAN **EXPANSION**

Brown comes close to ruling out EMU for good

Gordon Brown's honeymonn with the fi- is a sense, therefore, in which Labour's innancial markets has ended in an entirely predictable manner - impaled on the 2,000 year old issue of Britain's relationship with the rest of Europe. The last Government failed to come up with a credible policy on monetary union; this one looks like being oo better at it.

Furthermore, in trying to prepare the markets and the electorate for a more prosingle currency stance, the Government seems to have slipped oo a well sign posted banana skin. You cannot tell the markets one thing one day, then quite another the next; they just won't take you seriously. Nor will the rest of Europe, where Labour's honeymoon seems to have been ended as completely by the events of the past few days as it has in the City.

As it happens, Mr Brown has not been as severely punished by financial markets as he might have been, or oot yet io any case. Sterling has regained some of its former strength and the loog term costs of Government borrowing have gone back to where they were before the FT's now infamous "scoop". But there is not much sense of crisis out there, and if the City's faith in the Government's news managemeot skills has been punctured, its broader belief in the underlying strengths of the UK economy has not.

Nor should it be. Monetary policy is now in the very capable hands of an independent Bank of England, while the Government finances haven't been in better shape since the mid to late 1980s. There

ability to agree a stance on the single currency doesn't really matter. The economy should keep chugging along as nicely with the same old wait and see policy Britain SIX Into four has always had on the single currency as with the more committed approach floated in the FT

Even so, it is possible that the markets haveo't yet fully taken on board the extent of the policy shift that Gordon Brown has signalled here. In ruling out British membership in the first wave and encouraging the suggestion that no decisioo will be taken in the life time of this parliament, Mr Brown has in effect ruled out membership in 2002 too, when single currency ootes and coin are scheduled to be introduced. To stand any practical chance of joining in 2002, the decisioo has to be takeo of least three years previously, so as to allow adequate preparatioo by husiness and government.

By stipulating five pre-conditions, Mr Brown also came very close yesterday to ruling us out for good, for it seems unlikely that the business cycles of European economies are going to converge much more than they have already. Even in the US, with 200 years of monetary and political union behind it, economic performance can vary greatly between states. Conditions for monetary union in Europe are never going to be perfect. Ecocomically, Europe cannot ever expect to be in complete harmony. If that is Labour's pre-condition, then we will never be n part of it. That may be

what the electorate wants, but there is a real danger of the markets seeing it for what it is, an act of political cowardice.

won't go

There are two possible explanations for yesterday's hurried engagement notice from Ernst & Young and KPMG. The first is that the bean-counters at the two firms were sent into a hlind panic by the ouptials announced last month by Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand. If regulators are going to allow the Big Six becoming the Big Five, theo KPMG had jolly well better be in on the act too.

Getting the marriage plans out within weeks of the other lot has the merit of beating Arthur Andersen and Deloitte Touche to the altar. The other theory, strictly for conspiracists, says that vesterday's announcement was a sham. KPMG and Ernst & Young have co intention of linking up at all but they think that by throwing another anticompetitive mega-merger into the regulator's in-tray they can ensure its rivals' deal is blocked. The lack of any flesh on the bare bones of yesterday's announcement rather backs this latter theory.

KPMG is putting itself in a position where it has nothing to lose. Either it leapfrogs the other global behemoth being created by Coopers and Price Waterhouse, or it ensures that the rival get together never happens. Heads I win, tails

you lose. The upshot is much more likely to be that neither of these two deals happens than that both of them do. Clients are irritated by the increasing lack of choice and the conflicts of interest thrown up by the mergers. Staff, it now appears, are also underwhelmed by the prospect of working for these giant, homogenous monoliths.

The only good thing about these proposals is that the merged entities are so enormous that they qualify for automatic reference to the European Commission, as well as the watchdogs in all the domestic markets they operate in. Regulators only need to take one look at the prospect of 87 per cent of Britain's leading companies being audited by just two firms of accountants to know what to do.

Unilever's Magnum force

The ice cream map of Latin America is beginning to resemble one of those domino-effect models that the Cold War planners of the CIA so used to enjoy frightening us with. Instead of being overrun by Communism, the region is being overrun by Cornettos.

Yesterday's acquisition of Kiboo, Brazil's largest ice-cream business, from Philip Morris, not only catapults Unilever into number one slot in Brazil but also gives it overall leadership across the entire Latin American market. From a standing start in 1993, it now occupies first or second place in 12 South and Central American countries in its continuing icecream war with Nestle.

Admittedly, this is hardly front-page stuff. Even a deal costing close on £600m is still only a bolt-on acquisition in the Unilever scale of things. How much more thrilling it would have been had Niall FitzGerald joined in the merger mania over running the world and used the £3bn from the sale of the group's speciality chemicals business to help finance a tilt at Heinz.

Ice cream, yellow fats, tea and mass skin products - what Unilever calls its "star" brands - may never set the world alight. But for shareholders, the strategy of organic growth and small scale acquisitions in developing markets in these product areas will almost certainly prove more rewarding.

Unilever's promise to turn Kiboo into an international ice cream innovation centre" admittedly doesn't augur well, but leaving aside the management jargon and coocentrating instead on the cold facts, this looks an excellent deal. Kibon's operating margins are already 50 per above those Uoilever achieves io Europe, and the scope for growth is enormous in a country where ice-cream consumption per head is a third of that in Argentian and a quarter of that in Chile.

Giveo that Brazilian ice cream sales have doubled in the last two years it is hardly fanciful to suppose that the market can double again over the cext decade. Prosaic as it Mr FitzGerald's strategy may be, it is undoubtedly the right one.

IN BRIEF

Newcastle Utd to set up own television channel

Newcastle United yesterday confirmed plans to set up its own TV channel. The Premier League football club is in talks with a number of broadcasters and has received a joint offer from BSkyB and Granada. It plans to finalise a deal by early next year, Newcastle is also planning a merchandising drive to revitalise its mail order business. It has just signed a contract to sell replica foot-ball team shirts and its fashion ranges, which have been developed with ex-Next boss George Davies, throughout Scandinavia in a home shopping catalogue. It is also in discussions with high street retailers in Hong Kong to establish a business in the Far East. Newcastle announced a 37 per cent rise in operating profits to £8.1m and a pre-tax profit of £8.3m after player transfers for the year to July, compared to a loss of £23.6m in the previous season. It stands to make an extra £3.5m in TV revenues if it progresses to the semi-final of the European Champions Cup. Investment column, page 24

Starwood to take over ITT

ITT, the US hotel group which owns the Sheraton chain, yesterday agreed to a \$13.3bn takeover bid from Starwood Lodging in a deal which could create the largest luxury hotel group in the world. The move is designed to thwart rival US hotel group Hilton, which has launched a \$11.1hn hostile bid for ITT. The news is a blow to Ladbroke, which has formed an alliance with Hilton. It has already beld preliminary talks with Hilton about taking control of some of the Sheratoo chain around the world. Starwood's surprise offer comes just weeks before TTT was due to face a shareholders' vote on Hilton's bid after an increasingly bitter battle between the two sides. The merger will create a group with 650 hotels in 70 countries, and marry ITT's Sheraton and Caesars hotels with Starwood's Westin, Ritz and Marriott chains.

Pay-per-view film deal signed

Four cable companies yesterday confirmed they had signed an agreement with Warner Brothers to launch pay-per-view film services. NTL. Telewest Communications, General Cable and Diamond Cable Communications have secured the film rights from Warner on a non-exclusive basis. BSkyB confirmed it had signed a similar deal with Warner at the end of last week. The cable companies were also close to signing deals with Sony and Paramount, sources said.

Energis could be worth £1.3bn

The planned flotation of Energis, the telecommunications group owned by National Grid, could value the company at £1.3hn, according to a leading industry analyst. James Dodd, from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, predicted Energis would take 10 per cent of the UK husiness phone market in 10 years and would see its reveoues rise to £323m in 2000, compared with £97m last year. Mr Dodd added that his valuation was "modest," if compared with counterparts in the US, though the final price would also reflect UK stock market conditions. National Grid is expected to sell off between 25 and 30 per cent of Energis in December.

GA in £272m Canadian buy

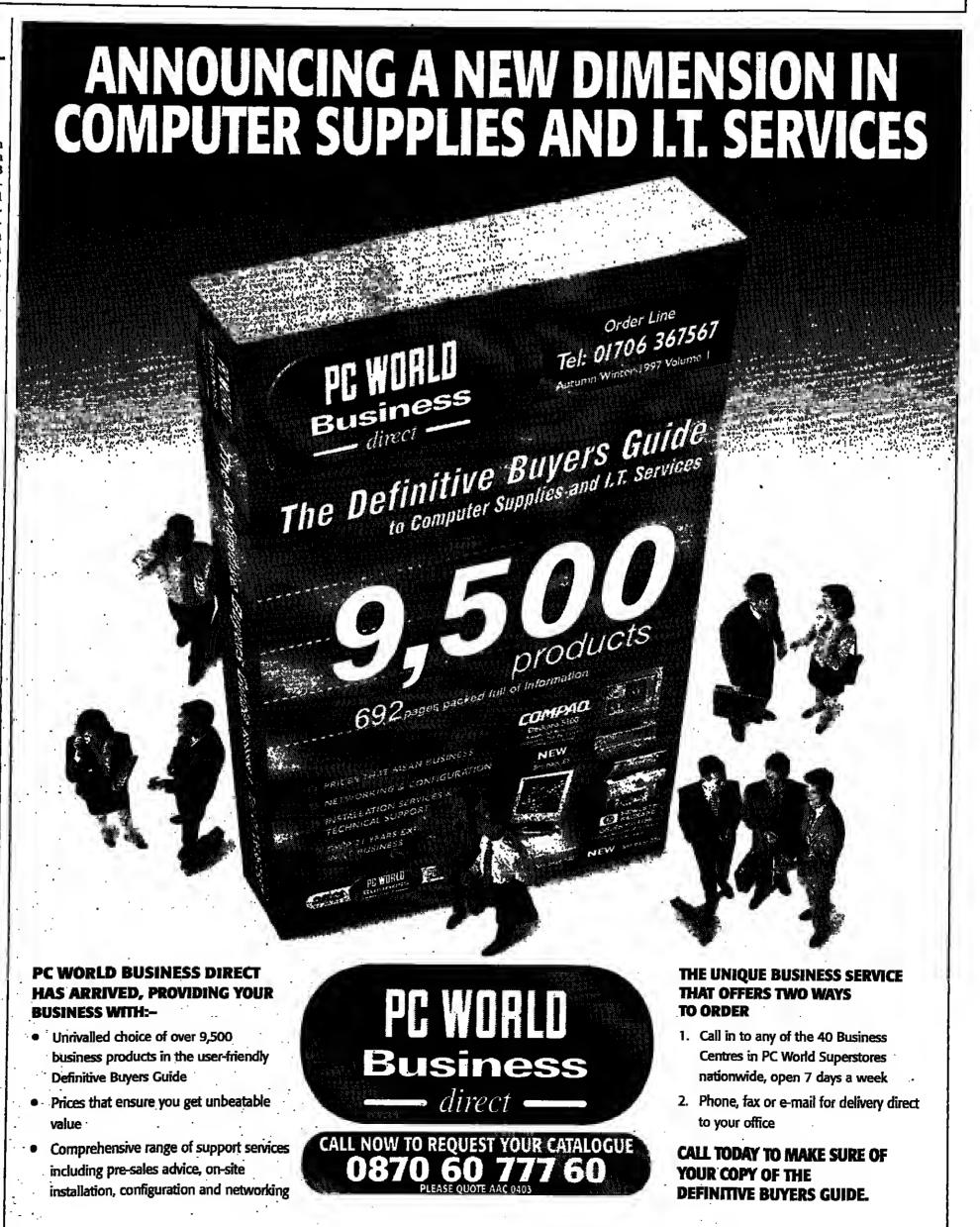
General Accident, the insurance company, announced it was paying C\$600m (£272m) to buy Canadian composite insurer Canadian General. Investors, however, marked down its shares by 3.5 per cent to £11.05 as many judged that GA was overpaying for its acquisition. Following the deal GA's solvency ratio, currently 78 per cent, will fall to 70 per ceot.

France Telecom shares soar

Shares in France Telecom soared by 15 per cent on the Paris stock market yesterday as the telephones giant made its longawaited debut as a public company. Some 3.9 million small investors joined in the windfall, including 125,000 France Telecom staff. The shares opened at Fr215, valuing the group at Fr215bn, compared with the Fr187 paid by institutional investors and the discounted Fr182 price for small shareholders. Though the price slipped back in later trading, the debut makes France Telecom the country's largest company by market value, ahead of the oil

Hambros break-up more likely

A possible break-up of Hambros, the merchant banking, insurance and estate agency group, appeared more likely last night after the company admitted it had appointed rival Schroders to advise it on way in which it could improve "performance and returns to shareholders". Rebel Hambros shareholder, Regent Pacific, said yesterday it hoped the review would lead to the break-up it has been calling for over the past year.



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

FDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Newcastle has a lot to prove

Wildly fluctuating revenues, spiralling wage costs, rising losses and falling share prices. Welcome to the world of foot-

The relationship between football clubs and the City has been turbulent. Attracted by the promise of huge TV revenues and a rapid rise in receipts from selling club strips and memorabilia as clubs clamoured to exploit their brands, investors rushed to buy football shares. But the sector ran away with itself and the football bubble has now

Since Newcastle, the biggest of the recent flood of flotations, came to the market last April, football share prices have plunged by almost one-fifth.

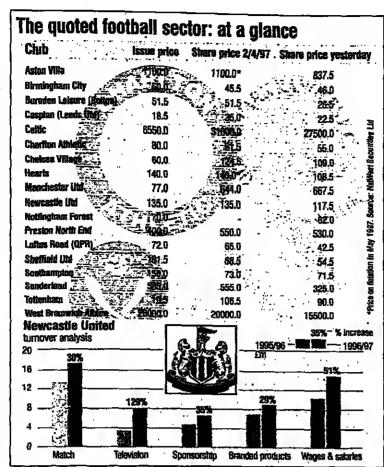
But to shun the whole sector would be a mistake. True, investors have to rememher that foothall is not a conventional, predictable business. Star players come and go and physical injuries can leave share prices ailing. Given the caveats, though, there are gems in the football sector.

Mancbester United is one. The club has already shown it is the best in the husiness at exploiting its brand. Newcastle, too, looks attractive. The company, which yesterday announced a 42 fortably faster than players' wages. per cent jump in turnover to £41m for However the gap between success the year to July, due to a sharp rise in and failure is widening all the time. TV and merchandising revenues, still Choose carefully and be prepared to has a lot to prove after a disappointing stick it out for the long term. flotation. But it has huge potential to follow in the footsteps of Man Utd. Similarly Caspian, which owns Leeds, Seton looks a has good opportunities to increase revenues, selling its brand to a large sup- healthy bet ported base.

Where it becomes difficult, however, is assessing the fortunes of clubs in real Seton Healthcare will be in rude danger of relegation. Southampton, for health if the Labour Government sucexample, is stuck between a rock and a hard place. Facing the drop from the tors. The prospect of GP consultation Premier League, it could try and spend fees, which could be a reality by the end its way out of trouble. However if it fails, of next year, will have us running to our it faces a potentially crippling cost pharmacist, not our doctor, with base in the First Division.

Investors should also be wary of clubs that tend to yo-yo between the Premier the UK's best-known over-the-counter League and the First Division such as pharmacy brands, such as Woodwards Nottingham Forest or Sunderland.

nancial exploitation of the game is still in its infancy and TV revenues could rise to dizzying heights. Potential gains are of acquiring brands, using its markethuge and the most successful clubs will ing muscle to negotiate better pricing



ceeds in making us pay to see our doccoughs and colds. That is just what Seton wants. The company sells some of gripe water and Ralgex for pain relief. Big clubs can make money. The fi- and makes two-thirds of its sales through pharmacies.

Meanwhile the company's strategy be able to ensure revenues grow com- and pushing the lot through its tightly

run distribution pipeline, continues to pay off. Seton is cutting around £5m strong pound knocked £95,000 off the of stock in each half year to 1999 to fo-

cus on higher value products, which with operational efficiencies from the process will improve margins. Operating margins in the half year to Aucent before exceptionals. Seton's cash flow, which had been troubling some observers, also improved as a result of the stock changes, from a negative £2m in the half year last year to a positive £3m free cash flow this time. Less stock meant a slip in sales of consumer products to wholesalers, but retail sales continued to grow at a steady 8 per cent.

The group is maintaining its strong record on acquisitions. Buying ThackrayCare for £22m in June builds on Seton's position in continence care. With £90m of banking facilities, Seton can continue spending without issuing paper.

Seton has seen no fall in its headlice treatment sales since World in Action found organophosphates in such products could make children ill. The company has several phosphate-free treatments anyway. The introduction of Smith & Nephew's Dermagraft 22. High enough for now.

wound healing product in the UK also poses no real threat.

Brokers forecast around £24m for the year. The shares, up 8p to 465.5p, trade on 15 times. Decent value.

Harvey Nash rides the IT wave

Harvey Nash, the IT recruitment company, timed its stock market flotation well. It came to the market in April when the recruitment market was booming and its shares took off. Priced at 175p, they soared to a high of 292.5p in a couple of months.

Like other IT recruitment specialists such as CRT, Delphi and MSB, Harvey Nash has henefited from the trend towards temporary IT staff that the millennium timebomb and growing use of IT in industry has created.

Harvey Nash specialises solely in IT recruitment with its main two divisions bandling search and contract services with most jobs in the £30,000 to £60,000-a-year salary band.

But yesterday's half-year announcement - Nasb's first figures since flotation - also bore its first real

Though interim profits were up by more than one-third to £2.4m, the

operating line. This was due to profits translation from the group's European offices in Germany and Switzerland, some 18 per cent of group sales. This news seemed gust rose from 19.2 per cent to 23 per to catch the City offguard and the group's shares fell 13.5p to 273.5p though the company's joint managing director said the impact should be less severe in the second half.

Going forward, Harvey Nash feels the IT market will remain strong even after the millennium as it moves to place candidates in Internet, intranet and other new media positions within organisations.

Also, millennium-related work accounts for only 5 to 10 per cent of its husiness, the company says. Harvey Nash is looking at acquisitions, possihly in continental Europe.

With £3m in cash it has the resources, but says if a deal is for more than £8m it may need to issue new

On full-year forecasts of £5.1m, the shares trade on a forward multiple of

The new European currency will be in widespread use in the yesterday that by 2002 cheap main British shopping centres software would exist whereby before it is legal tender in this tills could accept euros and country, retailers have told the give change in sterling. It would Treasury. be much easier to produce a Senior figures in the British Retail Consortium said it would

"not be unusual" for the euro to be accepted as legitimate tender in areas which receive visitors from the Continent ahead of any decision by the Government to become part of the currency system.

The euro could become

a "secondary currency"

in Britain even if we stay

out of the system. Barne

predictions that many

stores will accept the

alternative to sterling.

new notes and coins as a

Clement reports on

Directors of some of the most influential stores groups have told ministers that the euro could become a "secondary currency" in Britain and key curophile Treasury officials believe it could smooth the path to full membership of the system.

British shops prepare

Marks & Spencer, one of the UK's leading retailers, is introducing new tills to accept all foreign currencies, but particularly the euro when the system is launched in 1999. The notes and coins will be accepted at all 286 Marks stores throughout Britain and sterling will be giv-

en as change. Elizabeth Stanton Jones, director of financial services at the British Retail Consortium, said check-out system to deal with pounds and euros than with sterling and the current prolif-

eration of European currencies. The best guess of the Government's position is that Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has decided to stay out of the currency in the first wave, but will consider joining at a later date. However there seems to have been an attempt by the Government to soften up opposition to the principle of

to accept the euro Some Treasury officials argue that general acceptance of the currency in the busiest shopping areas could lead to a gravitational pull towards its acceptance as legal tender and eventual full membership of the

Selfridges, one of London's most famous stores, said it was "ahead of the game". Its shop already accepts 10 foreign currencies and the arrival of the euro will make its life easier rather than more complicated,

Peter Williams, finance director at the store, said the euro would be common currency in parts of Britain whatever the decision of the Government. The minimum standard in a place like Oxford Street in London, which attracts millions of continental visitors, would be the Marks & Spencer option with the acceptance of the euro with change in sterling.

The London Chamber of Commerce applauded the prescience of Marks & Spencer and said that smaller retailers were preparing for the new currency but needed to be given a lead by the Government before committing themselves.

Capel rapped for Maxwell dealings

The ghost of Robert Maxwell returned to haunt Capel Cure Myers yesterday as the investment firm was reprimanded and fined £150,000 for serious failings in its mishandling of Mirror Group pension money, Mike Jones, Capel's chief executive, claims the punishment does not fit the crime. Andrew Verity reports.

Capel yeslerday protested against being severely reprimanded, fined and ordered to tribunal upheld a decision by City regulators over its handling of Mirror Group pension funds.

Making its first public attack on the actions of Capel in the Maxwell affair, the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA) slammed the company for switching millions of pounds away from the pension funds without instructions from its client, the pension fund trustees.

The SFA accused the firm of allowing the massive transfers from the fund purely on oral instructions when these did not even come from its client - the trustees. The SFA, which declined to name who gave the instructions, said the transfers were often made without writ-

ten records or proper authority. Two Capel directors, Tony Pattison and Richard Nead, were singled out for criticism by the SFA. Mr Nead, Capel's compliance officer, had unintentionally given false and misleading information when the SFA investigated the affair.

Mr Pattison was in charge of Mirror Group funds at Capel when money had been transferred without instructions. He also failed to keep track of where it went, the SFA said.

Stock lending arrangements were used to transfer pension backed investment companies. Bishopsgage Investment Management and London & Bishopsgage Investments. It was then used as security for loans

to Maxwell's private empire. Mike Jones, chief executive of Capel , said: "We never engaged in stock-lending but were persuaded to by other SFA counterparts. Lehman Brothers and Credit Suisse. We believed it was temporary which was why better records weren't kept. This punishment doesn't fit the crime

by any manner of means."

Framatome says merger with GEC is off

The planned £1bn takeover of Framatome, France's nuclear power station huilder, by GEC Alsthom was abandoned yesterday, renewing speculation that the Anglo-French group was on course for flotation.
In an interview with the

French newspaper Le Monde, the chairman of Framatome, Dominique Vignon, said: "The merger with GEC Alsthom is no longer on the agenda." The apparent collapse of the deal comes just days after Siemens and British Nuclear Fuels announced plans to combine their nuclear expertise.

GEC and Alcatel each own 50 per cent of GEC Alsthom which began talks with Framthe past three months GEC and Alcatel have been examining a £4bn flotation of their joint venture since George Simpson, GEC's managing director, said

that was his preferred option. Alcatel Alsthom owns a 44 per cent stake in Framatome. Asked what it would do with the stake, Mr Vignon said: "Everything will depend on Alcatel's strategy concerning GEC Alsthom." A GEC spokesman yesterday refused to comment on the talks with Alcatel.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Creet Land & Est (F)	5 95m (8.06m)	1.657m (1.503m)	1.8p (2.0p)	
Formscau (F)	4 98m (5 5m)	1 276m (1.202m)	.9.36p (9.25p)	2.25p (2.25p)
Harvey Mash Group (I)	23.77m (16 4m)	2.111m (1.788m)	S.25p (4.43p)	1.55p
MinMet (I)	- (-)	1R108,495 (IR32,70)	0) -Op (-Op)	
Hewcastle Utd (F)	41 1m (42.2m)	8.3m (-23.6m)	6.9p (-22.6p)	0.5p (nii)
Owen & Robinson (I)	11.61m (1 <i>1.</i> 99m)	-602,000 (-2.5m)	-0.44p (-3.37p)	
Seton Healthcare (I)	53.3m (49.3m)	8.7m (7.9m)	12.6p (10.9p)	3.0p (2.7p)
Upton & Southern (F)	11.84m (8.95m)	423,000 (307,000)	0.20p (0.14p)	ΛÎ
Usborne (F)	153.5m (158.6m)	16,000 (1.12m)	0.15p (2.59p)	1.0p (1.0p)
(E) - Freet (I) - lotte-tre				

Redland 'white knights' rule themselves out

Two leading building materials companies. Holderbank and Wienerberger, yesterday counted themselves out as white knights to rescue Redland, under siege from a £1.7bn bid from French group Lafarge.

Holderbank, based in Jona. Switzerland, and Vienna-based Wienerberger had been tipped as suitors, but both said they were not interested in buying all

or part of Redland's aggregates or roof tiles operations. Minorco also yesterday dismissed weekend press reports that it was a likely white knight. These join RMC, Tarmac, Pioneer and Hanson, who have all indicated they would not be interested in making a full hid.

The news suggests proposals for a break up is Redland's best defence. Interest in Red-

land's aggregates business is likely to be greater than for the whole group while the German Brass family, which owns 43.5 per cent of RBB Redland's roof tiles husiness, is understood to be considering an offer for Redland's stake. Lafarge has taken a 39 per

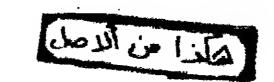
cent shareholding in a Spanish cement company. - Sameena Ahmad

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Brown's EMU confusion clouds first day of order-driven trading

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

For black read brown Monday ally prompted institutions, sufdriven trading system.

in a quiet, uneasy session trading was light with many dealers reluctant to get too deeply involved in the new order. After the often chaotic rehearsals many adopted a Monday on the 10th anniver-inputs. geotly, gently approach and

kept trading to the minimum. Footsie dealing outside the order book with traders cootinuing to use the traditional market-makers whose spread, order prices.

EMU was seen in some quar- cated the market would face ters as something of a blessing a tricky session with or with-

of the Stock Exchange's order caught up in frenzied activity in an unfamiliar market.

Even so, in the first few minutes after Mr Brown launched the new order, there market faced another Black there were oo spaghetti-finger sary of the great crash.

In the event it was a Brown There was still considerable Monday, Footsie ended 60.1 gators have read the scene corpoints down at 5,211. It was at one time off 118.8.

New York's receot weakness, tribulations in the Far makers. But it seems old-style in the main, was in line with East, with Hong Kong showing distinct signs of a bear run, Mr Brown's confusioo over and anniversary jitters indi-

"Under the old system bull, or bear, run and frantic as the widely signalled crash fering acute discomfort over New York and the Far East trading in a single share. failed to occur and Chancel- the Government's somersault, would have given the marketlor Gordon Brown's muddle to stay on the sidelines rather makers a chance to bash bell over EMU clouded the launch than run the risk of getting out of the market - and they would have done so," ob-

served one trader. pended (for 10 minutes); they included Imperial Chemical

> order book should, if its instirectly, gradually gather up much of the Footsie trade still going through markettrading will be a significant part of the market for some considerable time.

Yesterday's moderate trad-

gle stock examination. Third- up value of 320p. Racal's telequarter figures on Thursday com arm is known to be up for

may present a problem. The sale and there is talk it would shares slipped a further 3p to listen to offers for its data A few blue chips were sus- 946.5p. Stockbroker Sutherlands is looking for £95m, below many other forecasts. But the shares a buy.



changed at 236p. Henderson ICI could provide the sin- Crosthwaite suggest a break-

products division. After Friday's excitement

financials had a more subdued session although Commercial Union stretched to yet another peak, up 7p to 883p. Hambros, the merchant bank. gained 12p to 270.5p. It supported break-up rumours by appointing Schroders to review the group. The Hong Kong talk evaporated. setback hit HSBC 43p to

1,91бр. Some retailers were search. J Sainsbury led the

Racal Electronic was little 727p, were among others singled out. BAT Industries, on a UBS buy, added 4p to 589p.

Sterling's bounce his exporters. Hahna, an environmental engineer, is the latest to complain about the pound. The shares faded 8.5p to 129p after a warning the sterling cost would be around £2m in the

first half year. Family-controlled Peel, the property group, fell 55p to 675p after dismissing weekend talk of takeover action. Scotch whisky distiller Burn Stewart weakened 5p to 48.5p as bid

Middlesex, the metal group with extensive interests in the former Soviet Union, hardpushed higher by comments by ened to 8.25p after Russian retail consultant Verdict Regroup Rao Gazprom said it planned to spend \$25m buy-

TAKING STOCK

198.5p, a peak.

Freeport Leisure, running shopping and leisure villages, could be on the verge of getting a 20-acre site near Leeds which already has outline consent for retailing. It runs three centres and has a site awaiting planning permission. The shares rose 5p to

Dean Corporation, the builder and property manager, held at 15p. A group controlled by First Shanghai Investments of Hong Kong is taking a 20.32 per cent stake as part of a £2.4m cash-raising exercise which includes an open offer. The company plans a full listing.

WPP, the advertising giant, continues to build its stake at CIA, the media buyer. It has gathered in another 400,000

		711	is as something of a blessing disguise. The threatened ack Monday scenario actu	a tricky session with or with- out Mr Brown and order-dri- veo trading.	ing manne the autom has see	220 210 ONDJEMAM JASO	blue-chip leader board, up 10.5p to 476p. Dixons, 14.5p to 694p, and Next, 11p to	ing into the group. Its long- term intention is a 25 per cent interest.	shares, taking its holding to 13.46 per cent. CIA held at 171.5p.
	According Berverages 195 of Alland Connect 195 o	Che 714 PRICAM Che 715 PRICAM Che 714 PRICAM Che 714 PRICAM Che 715 PRICAM Che 715 PRICAM Che 714 PRICAM Che 714 PRICAM	Stanck	25 a tricky session with or with- 1 Out Mr Brown and order-dri- 1 Veo trading. 25 wash 1 Veo trading. 25 wash 25 22 Batton 25 25 Batt	10 face a severe test. It has still 10 contend with a determined 110 contend with a determined 1	10 week 150 week	10.5p to 476p. Dixons, 14.5p to 694p, and Next, 11p to 695p, 495p,	Share Price Data Prices are in souring except where stated. The grade of the share price. The shaded as a percamage of the share price. The shaded by her year's earning per share, exchain the chiefed by her year's earning per share, exchain the chiefed by her year's arming per share, exchain the chiefed by her year's arming per share, exchain the chiefed by her year's earning per share. The Independent Teleshare To access Real-Time You will hear the current FISE to well hear the current FISE to well hear a Real-the listings on this page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listings on this page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listings on this page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listings on this page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listings on this page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listings on this page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listings on this page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listings on this page. You was been been a state of the listing of the Portion of the page of the page. You can interrupt at any dame to hear a Real-the listing business hours.) For help with the service, including the Portion of	13.46 per cent. CIA held at 171.5p. 13.46 per cent. CIA held at 171.5p. 13.46 per cent. CIA held at 171.5p. 14. yield is the intext twelve months' declared gross disperiodesmings (P/E) ratio is the shareprice of secondary learns but including eccupations. 15. et al. o.
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The drawbacks of a one-size-fits-all monetary policy become clearer



HAMISH **MCRAE** ON THE LESSONS OF LABOUR'S EMU CONFUSION

It has been an interesting few days for anyone watching British economic policy, but I'm not sure it has been an important few days. The interest comes of course

from the toing and froing over British policy towards EMU. What have we learnt?

The most abvious lesson is perhaps the teast important; that the extraordinarily sure touch that this Government has had in its handling of the media can disappear in a flash.

A story about EMU entry in the Financial Times, which was prohably wrong, is not tackled quickly enough; then it is cackhandedly corrected in an interview in the Times, with lots of off-the-record briefing appended to the formal words, The result is predictable confusion and memories of the last Labour government's financial incompetence being resurrected in the press.

In political terms this episode is interesting because it gives the first real taste of what life will be like after the honeymoon. But I really do not think it is important in economic terms, hecause something like this was always going to happen.

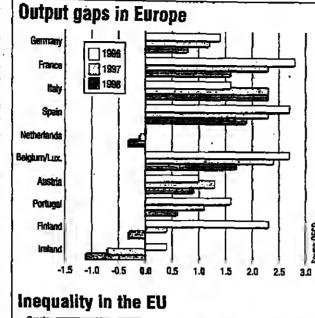
If you have an inexperienced (hut self-confident) Chancellor of the Exchequer, surrounded by inexperienced (hut self-confident) advisers, you are bound to have screwups. But in economics, unlike politics, policy matters far more than public relations, and there is no evidence yet of any serious policy mistake in the Treasury.

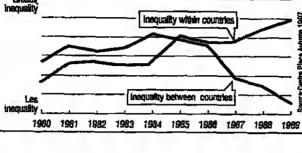
The second thing which we have learnt is extremely important in economic terms. The need to think about possible dates for UK membership of EMU has focused attention nn the economic cycle. Several commentators have pointed out that the UK cycles mirror the US, Canadian and Australian ones - that there seems to he some sort of Anglo-Saxon cycle which is quite different to the continental European and Japanese ones. Just why there should be such a phenomenon is a hit of mystery, but it does seem to

However, until the last three or four weeks, when for a moment British membership of EMU in 1999 seemed an alheit remote possibility, very few people appreciated that early membership would either require dramatic action to curb the UK cycle, ar inappropriate monetary policy being imposed on the UK. People could see that there was a theoretical problem hut they had not focused on the fact that there was a practical one.

This is enormously important and not just from a UK standpoint. Viewed from Britain, whenever the issue of there will not only be a debate about the need for converging inflation rates, sustainable fiscal deficits and the like. There with also have to be a debate as to whether the interest rates of the euro (assuming it does indeed come into being) are appropriate for the UK.

Equally important, this will





also become a much more dis- period of overheating, while cussed issue within the EMU region. People will ask whether the interest rates appropriate the slack is actually increasing for, say, the Netherlands, are also the appropriate rates for

I have chosen those two countries because, actually, this debate has just begun. A couple of City firms - Goldman Sachs and Kleinwort Benson -Netherlands and Germany EMU membership comes up, have had a de facto currency union for about 15 years, their cycles have diverged dramati-

> You can see that in the top graph, which shows output gaps (as good a measure of the position in the cycle as any) for the main EMU candidates. The

most of the rest of Europe still has considerable slack. In Italy

For Ireland and Finland

this is not too much of a prohlem, for though the output gap will disappear next year at least there is slack in the labour market. In the Netherlands, however, labour is quite tight. So the Netherlands ideally needs have noted that though the higher interest rates to choke off demand, while Germany doesn't. Yet this divergence in the economic cycle has occurred despite the currency

There is a practical moral here. If you can get divergent cycles in the currency union between the Netherlands and Germany, you will get divergent Netherlands, Finland and Ire- cycles within the currency land are all heading towards a union of EMU. At any one

point of time, though monetary policy might he right for Europe as a whole, it will be wrong for different hits of it too

tight for some, too loose for

others. People who fear that EMU might exaggerate the trend towards there being pockets of boom and pockets of slamp within Europe have evidence on their side.

In fact, though this cannot be tied directly to the efforts of financial convergence in the 1980s, you can pick up just such an alarming trend in Europe during that period. The bottom graph comes from Centre Piece, the magazine of the London School of Economics' Centre for Economic Performance.

As you can see, the EU has been successful at narrowing down inequality between countries and given the size of payments to countries like Ireland it would be pretty odd if it hadn't: transfer 5 per cent of GDP across the exchanges year after year and you ought to get some narrowing. But within countries there was a steady tendency for differentials between different regions to grow. Rich regions got richer; poor

got poorer. Now note this is not divergence of income between people, it is divergence between regions. It is particularly alarming because there were through the 1980s considerable efforts, both at a national and EU level, in encourage development in poorer regions.

It may be that those efforts were ill-targeted and/or ill-conceived. But it also suggests that "one size fits all" monetary policy within countries puts pressure on weaker regions, and it raises the question as to how much more pressure would result from a "one size fits all" monetary policy across

If the last few days have made us all think more about that problem, then maybe that have been useful after all.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



Sir Christopher Lewington was in typically pugnacious form yesterday as he announced the appointment of a new chief executive for TI Group, Bill Laule. Sir Christopher has spent the last nine years combining the roles of chief executive and chairman at the engineering group, in contravention of the Cadhury code, but he insists there was not even a hint of institutional pressure on him to split the jobs.

"Its always been the mind of the board to do it - there was no shareholder pressure." the chairman said yesterday. He's delighted that Mr Laule is an internal appointment, because "I wanted to keep the team which rehult this company together".

One of Mr Laule's main jobs when he takes over next year will be to decide where to spend TT's £500m war chest. The chairman says: "We're currently looking at around six to eight acquisitions. These are likely to focused on the John Crane sealing systems,"

Mr Laule, 49, an American, joined TI as president of Bundy North America in 1993. Sir Christopher points out that nearly half of the group's husiness comes from the States - and admits to being a big fan of American corporate culture.

"They encourage risk and growth and reward excellence," he enthuses. In contrast the current dithering over European Mnnetary Union does not amuse him: "I probably have the same degree of clarity on EMU as Gordon Brown.

In fact, the chairman sounds like a bit of a Eurosceptic: "I hope we don't become so besotted with Europe that we forget there's a great big world out there." In fact, Sir Christopher isn't sure why we need to link up with the Continentals in the first place: "This country is in great shape."

Jimmy Herbert isn't terribly impressed by horror stories from the 1987 crash. He had

already been a stockbroker for three years by the time of the Wall Street Crash of 1929. which I suppose allows him to pull some rank

in the story-telling stakes. Mr Herbert, at 86 the City's oldest stockbroker, is still hard at work with brokers Branston & Gothard, according to Investment

Adviser, the weekly magazine. Mr Herbert was born on 10 January 1911 and has been in buying and selling shares since he was 15. He was working in the London Stock Exchange when Wall Street collapsed

in October 1929. "It made me aware that people who appeared to be very rich one day could be very poor only 72 hours later," he said.

Having said that, he's not predicting a plague of locusts or anything like that this year, even if it's 10 years since the last crash.

"I don't think a major correction is going to cause severe pain and grief in the Square Mile. But I might be like Michael Fish saying there won't be a hurricane ..."

Coventry is about to go bananas. Dr Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, will open Geest's shiny new £6m banana ripening centre in Coventry this Thursday, accompanied by Prime Ministers from four Caribbean countries.

Dr James Mitchell, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Edison James, Prime Minister of Dominica, Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister Grenada and Dr Kenny Anthony, Prime Minister of St Lucia, whose econumies are heavily dependent on the hanana trade, are coming to the Midlands especially for the event.

The centre, at Cross Point Business Park, employs 50 people and will have the capacity to ripen six million bananas a week using "stateof-the-art pressure ripening equipment."

I like Paul Mortimer-Lee's approach to the UK economy in Parihas's latest global economics briefing circular. Pondering the great European Monctary Union dehate (snore). Mr Mortimer-Lee writes: "A referendum (in the UK) will not be held before 1999 since it would end up boiling down to the question 'EMU a good thing?', which (right or wrong) is a hit like asking an England football supporter whether he thinks the Italian police are wonderful." Mind that haton, per favore.

David Miles, a veteran of the UK pharmaceutical industry for 17 years, has popped up at Wokingham-based company Cerehrus as their new director of sales and marketing, neuroscience services. Mr Miles, whose most recent job was at Bingen UK, will be marketing Cerchrus's pre-clinical evaluation services to other companies.

Another small pharmaceutical company, London-hased Prolifix, has appointed Dr Sarah Eccles as head of business development. Dr Eccles joins from Therexsys where she was responsible for business development.

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Radio firms may bid to run national digital service

Emap Radio, Capital Radio and DMG Radio are in talks with NTL, the cable operator, about forming a consortium to bid for the right to run national digital radio services. Cathy Newman looks at what digital radio has to offer and assesses its chances of success.

The four parties have signed an agreement to explore the possibilities of bidding for the national commercial licence wheo it is advertised oext spring. The licence, or multiplex, will carry between six and nine channels and will begin broadcasting in 1999. The three national commercial stations -Virgin Radio, Classic FM and Talk Radio - are guaranteed space oo the multiplex, but roughly six channels will be available for oew services

A source at one of the companies involved in the potential consortium said: "We believe the best way to progress digital radio is to put our shoulders to the wheel together." Emap, Capital and DMG, which is part of the Daily Mail and Geoeral Trust, could be keen to get involved in digital broadcasting as none of their stations is guaranteed any space on the national multiplex.

Tim Schoonmaker, chief executive of hap Radio, would not comment on the talks, but said: "Emap is looking at digital radio both natiooally and locally."

NTL, which earlier this year failed to win the licence to run digital terrestrial televioo services, is already running a trial digital radio service in London. Classic FM has also secured a trial licence in the capital, and is thought likely to pitch against the Emap consortium for the oational multiplex. Other interested bidders could include Castle Transmission, and even supermarkets and banks, which would use the digital radio spectrum to transmit data.

The BBC, which has been trialling digital radio services for some time, will be awarded the only other national licence, which it will use to broadcast its five radio stations using digital technology. It will also develop some new services.

The two national multiplexes are to be advertised by the Radio Authority next spring and bids will be due in June. A series of local licences, each carrying up to nine channels, will also be on offer next year. Up to 30 local licences may be up for grabs, with major centres such as London getting a reliance on advertising sales." two or more licences.

Digital radio could see the launch of around 500 channels in total. There are curreotly 230 radio stations in the UK, Apologists for the oew medium wax lyrical about digital radio's CD quality sound, which will make a buge difference for stations broadcasting on AM at the momeot.

But for Neil Blackley, media analyst at Merrill Lynch, CD quality sound is only one element of digital radio's appeal. "It's ool just going to be digital radio; it's going to

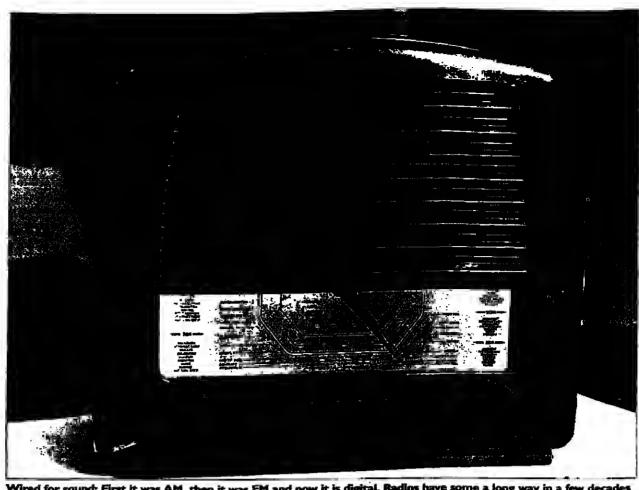
be a communications package," he said. A paging capability could, for example, be built into digital receivers, so users could pick up messages in their car or whenever they switched on the radio.

Digital receivers will have a five-inch colour screen, which will allow transmission of data and, mainly static, images. Scheduling information could be provided, for example, or pictures of the musician whose music is being played.

Some observers such as Bruce Fireman, a director of Guinness Mahon who specialises in media, say digital technology will eventually enable radio operators to make money not only from advertising but also from subscriptions. Special interest stations or programmes, which are at the moment refused space on the analogue spectrum, could be funded entirely by subscription revenues. "You could subscribe, for example, to The Fishing Programme," Mr Fireman said. "Digital liberates the broadcaster from

Although broadcasters may get excited by the opportunities digital radio affords, the cost of receivers is sobering and could limit the success of the new medium. The first receivers went on sale in Kingston over a year ago with a price-tag of £2,500. The price has oow come down to around £500. but receivers are still not readily available over the counter. Major high-street retailers are thought likely to start selling the sets in time for Christmas 1999.

The Radio Authority believes receivers



Wired for sound: First it was AM, then it was FM and now it is digital. Radios have some a long way in a few decades

same price as a set-top box for digital tele-

Despite the views of digital evangelists such as Mr Fireman and Mr Blackley, some not have a unique selling point, unlike othradio operators are distinctly more cautious. er new technologies of the past few Richard Huntingford, chief executive of decades, such as compact discs.

will eventually be available for £200 - the Chrysalis Radio, says: "What everyone is still searching for is what's going to be the driver of this new technology.

Mr Huntingford claims digital radio does

The investment incentives are also limited. Although the Radio Authority has promised local and regional stations an extension of their eight-year licences if they invest in digital, broadcasting a single analogue service on digital could cost in the region of £2m.

Watchdogs to investigate competing US bids for MCI

British Telecom's hopes of salvaging a place in a three-way US alliance could face a six-month delay following intervention by competition regulators, lawyers warned yesterday. As Chris: Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports, rival phones groups have voiced complaints to competition watchdogs about the two competing US bids for MCI, BT's American merger partner.

It emerged last night that the US Department of Justice (DoJ), the main anti-trust regulator, had amassed a substantial team of experts to investigate the two rival bids for MCI. The DoJ has already begun probes into WorldCom's \$30bn (£18.5bo) all-share approach for MCI and last week's \$28bn cash offer from GTE. They bave leapfrogged BT's revised \$24bo bid, which was recently cleared by US regulators. US competition lawyers yesferday cast serious doubt on

claims by both US bidders that they would complete any regulatory hurdles by next spring. Launching his offer for MCI, Bernard Ebbers, WorldCom's president, said he was confident the merger could be completed "no later than the first quarter of 1998".

Chuck Lee, GTE chairman, followed suit last week, claiming the company could "consummate, this transaction in the same time frame as contemplated in the WorldCom proposal".

However lawyers acting for companies hostile to the two merger plans said they expected the DoJ to take at least six months, and up to a year, to reach a decision on the bids. The delay would further complicate matters for BT, which is this week expected to start talks with GTE and WorldCom, which analysts predicted could

lead to a three-way link-up. BT is known to prefer a deal with GTE rather than World-Com, but lawyers also warned the DoJ was likely to find the GTE merger plan harder to approve. Bob Burka, a competition expert with attorneys Foley & Lardner in Washington, said: "Both transactions are extremely complicated. The GTE proposal creates more issues than the WorldCom ooe and is probably more difficult."

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The DoJ investigation is likely to focus on concerns that GTE and WorldCom, which have extensive local networks, would route all their long-distance traffic across MCI's phone lines after a merger.

Rival companies will argue that the DoJ should force the bidders to send calls across the cheapest long-distance network, regardless of ownership issues.

Separately yesterday speculation intensified that AT&T would consider launching a bid for GTE when the phones giant confirmed the appointment of Michael Armstrong, the chairman of Hnghes Electronics, as chairman and chief executive.

AT&T had been hunting for a chairman since the surprise departure in July of John Walter, chief executive and chairman designate.

Mr Walter parted company with AT&T after just nine months in the job when he was told the company's board did not want him to succeed Robert Allen as chairman.

Mr Armstrong gave no hints yesterday about his strategy, insisting it would be "several months" before he got used the

However analysts said the appointment would end a threemonth period of uncertainty at

Volatility the order of the day as Sets gets off to shaky start

Technical hitches and market nerves about EMU and the 10th anniversary of Black Monday meant the Stock Exchange's new orderdriven trading system got off to a bumpy start yesterday. As Lea Paterson reports, some in the City believe market volatility may be here to stay.

the Exchequer, pressed the buttoo to launch the Stock Exchange Electronic Trading Service (Sets), at 8:30am yesterday only to see the FTSE 100 index drop by 40 points immediately. Ten minutes later it was languishing almost 120 points down, before closing at 5,211, a fall of 60 points oo the day.

"Volatility is going to be a feature of this market from now on," said Martin Lupton of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

The launch of Sets, known as Big Bang II, means that, for most trades in FTSE 100 stocks, market-makers do not quote a spread of prices over the telephone, but rather input prices on buy and sell transactions into an electronic order book.

The move was essential "to keep ahead of the competition". according to Gavin Casey, the Stock Exchange's chief execu-

Technical glitches, though, marred the move to Sets for some dealers. A few firms were unable to use the new system for short periods during the morning, being forced instead to rely on other information providers, such as Reuters. However, the Stock Exchange insisted that its members had made "a very smooth transition" to Sets.

Increased volatility in the FTSE 100, a feature of recent dress rehearsals, persisted yesterday. Many market-makers believed that speculation over EMU was not the only factor, attributing at least some of the volatility to the relatively thin order book, "Volatility will decrease the deeper and the more liquid the order book becomes," said Richard Balarkas of BZW.

Some believe that market volatility is here to stay. One reason, according to Mr Lupton, is that dealers can now trade "baskets" of all FTSE 100 stocks simultaneously, a move that can cause large swings in the index. During Mr Brown's speech as he launched Sets, the market dropped by 76 points in only a few seconds, a fall attributed to a basket trade.

Market report, page 25

Landhurst chiefs jailed for corruption

Ted Ball, founder and former built up a successful leasing opchairman of Landhurst Leasing, was sentenced to three years in jail at the Old Bailey yesterday for his part in a £50m fraud. His deputy, David Ashworth, got 18 mooths in jail, and the duo were disqualified as company directors for eight years and six

years respectively. Sentencing them, Mr Justice Henry Pownall said the pair had damaged the name of the leas-

Ball, 34 and Ashworth, 45,

eration in the 1980s but started deceiving their bankers when they bought the Brabbam Formula One racing team in 1990 for £1m. Two years later Ball's "obsession" with motor racing had led them to pump millions more into Brabham, in return for corrupt cash payments.

Landhurst Leasing's banks sent investigating accountants into the company in 1992 and the web of deceit was discovliquidation and three years lat- burst ran short of cash. Just by er the Serious Fraud Office arrested and charged the two with corruptioo. Ball and Ashworth changed their pleas to they had taken thousands of pounds as kickbacks between March and September 1990.

The banks were entitled to trust the information they were given, Mr Justice Pownall said yesterday, a reference to the duo's extensive habit of "cookered. The company was put into ing the books" when Land-

buying Brabham they had broken banking covenants.

The judge told the pair: "You have ruined your reputaguilty last month, admitting tions and deeply hurt those nearest and dearest to you."

Tim Langdale QC, prose cuting for the SFO, said: "Ball and Ashworth took full, dishonest advantage of their controlling positions at Landburst for personal gain... it was simple old-fashioned greed."

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28/AMERICAN SPORT

All-rounder Ogea reels in Marlins' lead

The battle for supremacy in baseball's World Series is just two games old, but, as Rupert Comwell reports, a fascinating duel is developing nicely.

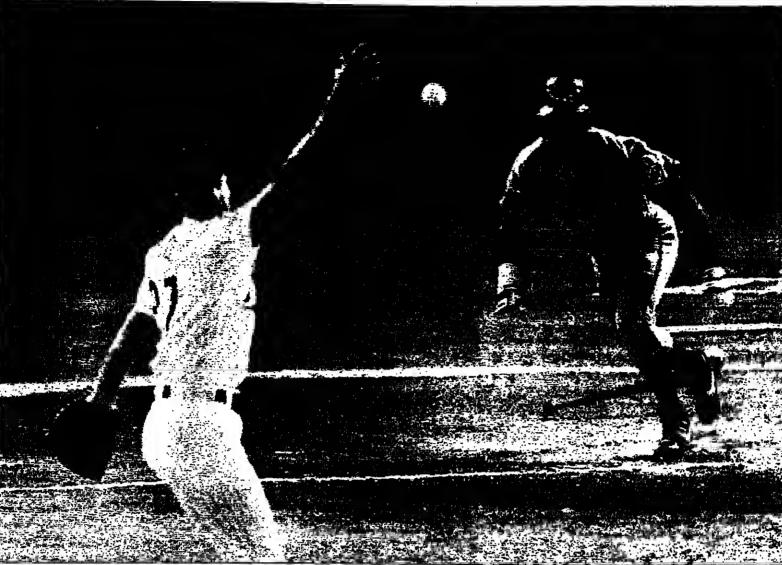
Thus far, mission accomplished for the Cleveland Indians. Masterly hitting by Marquise Grissom, and the clinically efficient Indians bullpen dispatched the Florida Marlins in Miami on Sunday night, to send the World Series back to Cleveland tonight perfectly poised at one game apiece.

The Indians of Game Two were unrecognisable from the team drubbed 7-4 in the Series opener. The Marlins had their chances, including four doubles, but could not cash in: "We just couldn't get the big hit," the Florida manager, Jim Leyland, said of his team's 6-1 defeat.

As he also acknowledged, though, the Marlins could not find a way round Cleveland starter Chad Ogea, who gave up seven hits but just a single run at the bottom of the first, in 6 2/3 innings. Then it was over and out as the Indians bullpen wrapped up matters. Jose Mesa and company have held first Baltimore and now Florida scoreless over the their last 10 innings. Of such statistics are world championships made.

But it was a bellweather night for the Indians hitters too - 14 hits in all and a decisive five-run explosion in the middle innings. The big blast was a two-run homer by Sandy Alomar in the sixth. In the fifth, however, Ogea proved he could bat as well as pitch.

Only in the batting line-up because of the no-designated hitter rule applying for World Series games, Ogea laid down



a deft bunt to move two runners over. One out later, both scored on Bip Robert's dribbled single into centre field. "I was lucky, I was just trying to get a bit of the bat on the ball," Roberts confessed later. "It was like the

No such flukiness clouded the Marquis Grissom show. On Sunday, baseball's current Atlanta Braves. Only Hank

"Mr October" hit safely in three of four at-bats, bringing his World Series average to .441 (26 for 59) - a mark unmatched by any batter in World Series history with at least 50 at-bats.

Grissom is also riding a 14game hitting streak in the Series, stretching hack to his 1995 and 1996 appearances with the

Bauer of the New York Yankees, with a 17-game streak stands ahead of him in.

In a best-of-seven series, of course, it ain't over till it's over. But such as they are, the omens are starting to accumulate in Cleveland's favour. Without a world championship since 1948, the Tribe feels its hour has come. As in over-

coming New York and Balti- ami each drew 67,000-plus ican League pennant, the Indians lost the first game, only to bounce back at once.

Now the Marlins must fight the elements too. They face the 50-degree chili of the Great Lakes in autumn, and the "wall of sound" that is Jacob's Field. The first two games in Mi-

more on their way to the Amer- , spectators, 'the largest World Series crowds in 34 years, and half as many again as the 42,000 who will gather in the "The Jake." But, the Indians slugger Matt Williams confessed, "I don't know the difference hetween the decibels. I think the Cleveland crowd is louder and

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Broncos rushed off their feet by Napoleon

The Oakland Raiders upset the AFC powerhouse Denver Broncos 28-25, dashing their hopes of a seventh successive win at the start of a season for the first time in their history.

Oakland took the lead for good in the third quarter of Sunday's game when the Raiders defender Lance Johnstone rammed the Denver quarterback John Elway from behind, forcing him to fumble. Eric Turner picked the hall up and dashed 65 yards to the endzone to gain a 21-17 advantage.

Then Napoleon Kaufman, who rushed for 217 yards, burst through the Denver line for an 83-yard touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The Broncos replied with Elway hitting the wide receiver Ed McAffrey for a 29-yard touchdown, and Terrell Davis ran in the two-point conversion, but Denver failed to stop Oakland on their next possession and time ran out.

The New York Jets coach, Bill Parcells, called up his reserve quarterback Glenn Foley, who led the club to a 24-19 upset of the AFC East leaders, New England, as Parcells gained revenge against the team he took to the Super Bowl last season.

In Texas, Herschel Walker caught a late 64-yard touchdown pass to give Dallas a 26-22 win over AFC Central leaders, Jacksonville Jaguars, who now drop into a tie for first place with Pittsburgh, who hammered Cincinnati 26-10.

Philadelphia beat Arizona 13-10 in an NFC East clash, with Chris Boniol driving in a 38-yard field goal to send the game into overtime, then hitung a 24-yarder to win it.

The San Francisco 49ers continued their mastery of the NFC West with a 35-28 victory in Atlanta, while Carolina gave the New Orleans Saints their first shut-out in 14 years with a 13-0 win in Louisiana.

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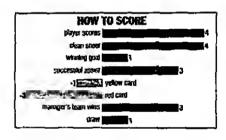
Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are for all games played up to 19 October, while the league table includes all scores up to 12 October. Also today we publish this month's winner. Mr P Nicol of Solihull with his team Rotor Blossomfield scored 229 points and wins a pair of tickets to England's next international at Wembley.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game Sunday in the Independent on Sunday.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a playare four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team er is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either

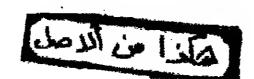
> The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose. Updated player scores and league tables will be published

a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the following



INDEPENDENT FANTASY FO

	LFAGI	JE TABLE		CODE PLANES	TEAM	WK SF VALUE	CODE, PLATER	7E-101	ME OF SALIE	CODE PLANS	TEAM	WA US SALIT IDEN	CUPE PLAYER	пли	WA ON SAIDE IDEAL	CODE PLAYER	TEAN	WE OR CALLE
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				- Constant		450 TELEVIS	22.5	 			-1.2	200.00		ACT IN CO.				



Dewhurst disappointment

Xaar, whose pedigree and

would be a re-

evens

20-1

12-1

20-1

Last week's futures market pace suggest he

Xaar's reign looks unassailable

Saturday's Racing Post Trophy is the last of the year's important examinations for Juveniles, but, as Richard

Edmondson reflects, it is going to take a truly exceptional performance for the winner to have any chance of dislodging Xaar as the season's top two-year-old.

There have been times, such as the years of Apalachee, Reference Point and Celtic Swing, when the victor of the Racing Post Trophy could look down rather sniffily at the winner of Britain's other great defining two-year-old cootest, the Dewhurst Stakes. If that situatioo

is to repeat itself this autumn their subsequent disappoint- two-year-old of 1978, but was contest last year with another know they have finally relocat- citement Xaar has generated. ed the Shangri-la of the early 1970s, wheo Brigadier Gerard and Mill Reef were submitted

brilliantly in the same crop. In truth, though, whatever succeeds at Doncaster oo Saturday will oeed the assistance of rocketry to compare with the achievement posted by Xaar down Newmarket's straight at the weekend.

After two days in laboratory conditions, Matthew Tester. the British Horseracing Board's handicapper of two-year-olds, yesterday emerged with a rating of 127 for Xaar, which officially makes him the best winner of the Dewhurst since El Gran Senor in 1983. Since then, the only two-year-olds to be rated higher are Arazi and Celtic ment cannot draw from the ex-

It is assumed that those connected to the French colt merely have to practise their public speaking this winter in preparation for the microphone on the 2,000 Guineas podium and

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Bandbox (Folkestone 3.30) **NB:** Swino (Folkestone 4.30)

there is even talk of a Derby, for which Xaar is genetically unsuited. Yet there is a precedent of another outstanding twoyear-old who lost his potency to the winter months. "I was cured of looking into a crystal ball to predict the future by Tromos,"

beaten in the Craven the fol- late entry, Medaaly, Henry Colowing year and then retired."

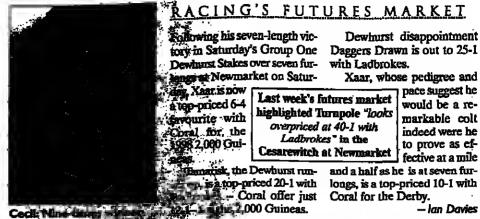
If an overpowering display is to be evidenced at Town Moor on Saturday it is likely to come Guineas ante-post second favourite. Aidan O'Brien's colt inite runner however, and is one of three inmates from Ballyleft in yesterday. O'Brico, who gauged the strength of the opalso has the Dewhurst third, Impressionist, in the field, has already indicated that Saturday's Curragh winner Saratoga Springs is an intended runner

One colt who has to perform with distinction to justify his inelusion is Mudeer, who has been supplemented into the Tester said yesterday. "He was race at a cost of £15,000. His Swing, and even the memory of head and shoulders the best owners, Godolphin, won the

at Doncaster.

cil, who has won the Racing Post Trophy nine times, relies on Craigsteel this time and his fellow Newmarket transcrs. from Second Empire, the 2,000 Michael Storte and Alec Stewart are represented by Killmanjaro and Mutamam has yet to be confirmed as a defbeen a consideration for the Dewhurst, but was removed from doyle among the 12 acceptors that assignment when Stewart

> position. James Toller too will scan the possible rivals to Duck Row before committing the Duke of Devonshire's colt to battle. If in Newmarket. Toller does not like what he sees oo the team sheet he will recoute Duck Row to Friday's Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury. More definited noises have heen emanating from Sean Woods, who intends to partici-



pate with the Solario Stake ner, Little Indian. The colt loss, been working well since in company with winning older horses from Woods's La Grange stables.

RACING POST TROPHY (Group One, 1m, Donometer, Seterday): Entries: Critiques of the Cooli, Duck Rope () Taller): Empressionist (A P O'Ericarit, Missensjaro (A Stoute), Little Indian (5 Whode), Mountain Song (Sir Maric Prescott), Mudear (Seasod bin Surcor), Muttathir Li Gosciani, Missensian (A Stevent, Guist Assurance E Durient). Services of the Children Cooling (Children).

highlighted Turnpole "looks" favourite with markabie colt overpriced at 40-1 with indeed were he Coral for the Ladbrokes" in the 9982,000 Guito prove as ef-Cesarewitch at Newmarket fective at a mile Bananisk, the Dewhurst run- and a half as he is at seven furis a top-priced 20-1 with longs, is a top-priced 10-1 with Coral offer just Coral for the Derby. Cecil: Mine times - 1995 1995 1995 1996 Guineas. 1998 2,000 Guineas Stakes (Im) one Empire & POBranki Chie Of Kings (A.P.OBrist/II) 12-1 Heavil & Dissippi mariek (Fl Charles)

Deggers Drains (H Cacil)

Repot Rice (3 Toler)

Xaar.is DOW

Newmarket on Satur-

1998 1,00	00 Guine	eas Stake	s (lm)	
Harte (Rainer)	Comi	William Hill	Lachrobes	Total
Emberry (Seeed bin Surcor)	0-1	5-1	5-1	41
Loving Claim (Mrs C Hossiffi)	6-1	5-1	7-1	5-1
Cape Venti (P Chappie-Hyern)	12-1	0-1	10-1	8-1
She fil Cacil	10-1	14-1	10-1	14-1
Antemaket (J.Duniop)	20-1	16-1	25-1	14-1
Epch-way a quarter the	odds, places,	1, 2, 8 (Novembrio	at, Surning 3 May)	,

in the last	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota
10-1	5-1	5-1	10-1
10-1	0-1	6-1	0-1
20-1	20-1	18-1	20-1
20-1	16-1	16-1	18-1
20-1	18-1	20-1	· 18-1
20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
	10-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1	10-1 0-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 16-1 20-1 16-1	10-1 0-1 6-1 20-1 20-1 18-1 20-1 18-1 16-1 20-1 18-1 20-1 20-1 25-1 20-1

FOLKESTONE

1.30 Stone Of Destiny 2.00 Courage Under Fire 2.30 Davis Rock

3.30 Bandbox (nb) 4.00 Critical Air 4.30 Broadstairs Beauty 5.00 VERONICA FRANCO (nap)

GOING: Good to Soft. STALLS: Streight - starnin side; round course - outside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for St & 6(, high for 71 to 12).

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for St & 6f, high for 71 to 12f.

Pight-hand, uncluding course.

Course is 6m Working course.

Course is 6m Working course.

Course is 6m Working town off A20, Westerhenger station (service from London, Charing Cross) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tarts 129, Picnic Park 54 per car & per coexpant. CAR PARIC Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hannon 21-758 (52%), R Alcohurst 18-98 (18.4%), J Duniop 18-45 (35.8%) M Chatanon 14-69 (14.1%), J Pearce 12-89 (20.3%), St M Prescott 11-52 (21.2%) G LEADING JOCKEYS: Paul Eddery 39-106 (17.9%), G Outfield 19-106 (18.4%), T Custru 18-24 (53.3%), Dans O Well 18-94 (17.4%), S Sanders 14-114 (12.3%), T Sprake 12-60 (15.%).

FAVOURITES: 194-552 (35.1%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Don't Forget Shoka (2.80), Italian Symphony (visored) (2.30), Kantone (visored) (4.00), Blarrey Park (visored) (4.00), Goldmaster (4.00).

WESTENHANGER MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS D) (Div I) £4,500 added 2YO 6f 189yds Penalty Value £3,168

The Boy John, second at Brighton to Cosmic Countess last time, now tries an extra fur-long on softer ground. With a fair three-length seventh to tveryy Joy at Newbury in soft-ish ground to his name, he could go well, STONE OF DESTINY and in blinkers (left of today) when outclessed behind Daggers Drawn at Donessier lest firm. He has the proven are ground or as name, he could go wes, STONE OF DESTINY fast in biliners (left off today) when outbeared behind leagers Driwn at Donesater lest firm. He has the proven form at this distance with four the to Salfron Lane at Newbury and to Name Of Love at Epsom so, chopped in class, looks the likely winner. Better is likely from Pas De Mendres, who lailed to handle the terrible ground at York after a pleasing debut run behind Desert Sand at Ayr. Dismond Drill, third on the all-weather on his debut, is the only other of note.

2.00 WESTENHANGER MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS D) (Div In PA 500 acided 2YO 66.189 yels Benafity Value 23.168

1 8 DANCING DERVISH (13) (Mas A V He) | Beiding 8 10 R Cochame 4

2 08 FIRST MASTER (29) (These Lucky Partnership) Gay Keleviny 87 A Wineler (3) 1

3 0 CASUAL MAGIC (14) (R C C Vilers) D Chapped 8 5 NA Advense (3) 1

4 00 PRINCE BATSHOOF (17) (First A Forzand) M 968 8 M Fertion 8

5 COURAGE LINDER FIRE (Mrs Action Island) D Abuthrot 8 3 T Sprain 8

8 11 HREE ANGELS (101) (Bernard Bloom) M Complete 8 3 D Biggs 7

7 00 OMBRIAD M MAGE (FIRE (Mrs Action Island) V Soone 7 12 R Firecoh (5) 2

8 5065 PERSIAN SABRE (40) (Persian War Pacing) V Soone 7 12 C Putter 5

8 RUSSIAN DELIGHT (17) (Kennet Valley Througheds I) R Hermon 7 12 Dutter 8

9 declared - 9 declared -

Angels, Persian Sabra, 14 Courage Under Firs, 20 Orabin Di Nube, Casual Megic 1986; Gizzbourg 2.8 to 17 Spraie 4-1 (J Dunlop) drawn (§ 12 ran 1986; Gizzbourg 2.8 to 17 Spraie 4-1 (J Dunlop) drawn (§ 12 ran 1997). The Courage of the

BIDDENDEN SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2.30 St 189yds Penalty Value £2,277

P McCabe (3) 10

BETTING: 7-2 Mike's Dooble, 9-2 Largores, 6-1 Chill Concerto, 7-1 Gunner Glorg 8-1 Sinny Wooperneme, 10-1 Davis Rock, Sinny Return, 12-1 Doo't Forget Shoke, Clear Distinction, 14-1 Madagne bland, 16-1 Glen Ogil, 20-1 others.

1990: Corniche Quoet 9 0 R Perham 6-1 (M Chennor) Grann (12) % sin

Milke's Double cruised in on the all-wester in July and also ran wall in second to Thords at Wolverhampton three curings later. He was expected to cope with the soft ground at Nottingham last week and his staying-on fourth to Milde East indicated he might do well no seller over this sweeth furfant. The ground was fester at Newmarket in August when Gusners Glory (third to La Doles Vita) was three lengths in front of Milles Double over this trip. Gurners Glory has done nothing in a visor since and Milles Double has a fine chance on 10b better forms. Chill Concerto has the inside pitch for this tuning sever-furfant, the properties of the service and the would have furiong trp. Her appearance in a saler confirms she has regressed but she would have furiong trp. Her appearance in a saler confirms she has regressed but she would have a leading chance on her second to Bramble Bear at Windom in May, Lamorne has don her winning on tester ground and SHARP RETURN, who could not get in a blow application older neets (race won by Scattechury) at Laicneter seven days ago is the ploit, Sharp Re-turn had given signs of better to come when seventh of 15 to Kale Konstein at Noting hern and her win leat yeer was at this fixture. Selection: SHARP RETURN.

3.00 HARDRES HANDICAP (CLASS F) £4,000 added 3YO

L		III II 149yus Penany value 13,470
1	0-5006	ARDENT (8) (R Larris) C Benefeed 9 7
2	333330	INCLINATION (56) (D.J.C. Brown & Mr. A.R.S. Warch M. Planethard 9.5
2 8	603406	TABASCO JAZZ (13) (Lord Portment B Albeiten 9.5
4	056068	HERE'S TO HOWIE (13) (D) (The Brieze Uppers) R Hennon 85
5	04-200	SIDNEY THE KIDNEY (111) (M.J. Ryen) M. Ryen 83
8	133200	ROYAL ROULETTE (7) (W.J.P. Jackson) 8 Woods 92N Day 4
7	45-046	STAR ENTRY (34) (J H Widdows) D Chappel 9 2 K Fallon 1
8	043522	ROWS ROUND (J10) (BF) (Formits) C Dwyer 9 1
8	426155	TYCOON TINA (8) (A N Brooke Rankin) W M Brisbourna 9 1
10	051130	HOMESTEAD (3) (Geolifey C Greenwood) R Harmon 8 13
Ħ	520003	JOLLY JACKSON (31) (Peter Valentine) R Allehurst & 13
12	000052	LINDEN'S LAD (108) (Electronic & Software Publications) J Jenkins 8 12 . S Sanders 1-
3	0-060	AFTER HOURS (35) (After Hours Partnersho) D Firench Davis 8 11
14	345940	WILLAGE PUB (FR) (21) (A.J Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 88
5	500002	CHURCHILL'S SHADOW (18) (Actaird J Gray) 5 Peace 8 7T Sprake 16
Æ	TTMG: 5-1	Harmaniani fili Ster Entry 7.4 Serven Ties 45.3 Julie berlane 8.4 Chrombits Chris

BETTING: 5-1 Homestead, 0-1 Star Entry, 7-1 Tycono Time, 15-2 Jolly Jackson, 8-1 Churchilfs Shed-ovs, 10-1 Linden's Lad, 12-1 Ardent, Royal Robiatis, Rom's Round, Incitication, 14-1 Tabanco Jazz, Here's To Howie, Skidney The Kidney, 18-1 Villago Pub, 20-1 After Hours 1998: Mono Lady 3 8 12 M Fenton 20-1 (D Haydo Jones) drawn (KI) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

In an amaisural race in soft ground at Salisbury in June, Jolly Jackson would have caught highly Ho with a bit further to travel. He tries the longer trip today on similar ground for the first time since so has claims and has Richard Quinn on board, in this low grade so has Ardent, who shaped well bet week in sixth to Alfahael at Leicestar. But the drop in trip tooks right for STAR ENTRY, an in The Wings filly sure to like the ground. Fourth of 18 to Tikopla at Bath and beatsn only two langths when sixth to Veronica Franco at Sandown, Ster Entry oan win the with less emplaced on stamme. Homestand, a runner at Volvenhampton on Saturday, is a duel winner over shorter trips at Brighton. He will not be far every in this league if he copes with the softer ground. This drop in trip may help Royal Roullette, who was sevenith to Swan Hunter at Leicester (m 4t) lest week, and Tycoon Tinus, a winner in the soft at Musselburgh.

Selection: STAR ENTRY

Į	3.3	0	CLIFF MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,277
1		222	BANDBOX (14) (BF) (The Bandbox Broads) S Mallor 8.0 M Wigham 8
2		5	DOUBLE BRANDY (95) (Queen Elizabeth) Belding 9 0
3	54	502	EMPEROR NAMEEUS (31) (Mrs Elline Mechan) & Mechan 8 0
7	-	00.	LONG ISLAND (20) (faker Bloodstock) R Hennon 8 0 Dane O'Nell 13
5		05	ROYAL BLUE (13) (The Ridgeway Partnership) M Usher 80
8		03	THIRD COUSIN (17) (P G Love) M Heaton-Ellis 8 0S Drowns 4
7		46	ATLANTA (14) (Duke of Marborough) J Durlop 8 8
8			BATCHWORTH BELLE (Mrs Diene Price) E Wheeler 88
8		333	DOVER SOUL (61) (R P Marchand P Makin 8 9
ī		05	GAME BIRD (30) (Mrs Robert Heathcole) J Spanning 8 8 J Wenner 1
Ť	i .		MYSTICAL SONG (I Strange) R Guest 8 9
Ť		5	OK BASE (14) (OK Pastnership) J Akehurat 8 9D Blope 3
T		ō	TOUGH NELL (83) (Godorpha Recing Partnership) Bob Jones 8 9
B	EITING	5-2	Emparor Naheam, 7-2 Double Brandy, 9-2 Dover Soul, 6-1 Bandhox, 7-1 Atlanta,

BET I New Over purpose reasons, 14-1 Royal Blue, Game Bird, Third Cotels, 20-1 others 1986; Unsheken 2 9 0 D Herrison 4-1 (J Ferstewer) drawn (2 13 ran FORM GUIDE DOUBLE BRANDY is taken to be the first witner to emerge from Arient's race at Newbury in July. The race looked deport at the time, and Double Brandy's time-length fifth of 10, after being supeased for room, was a promising effort. This opposition is nothing special, with the luckless Bandbox (in front of OK Babe and the easy-to-back Attents on fast ground last time) again Birdly to find something too good for him. Emperor Nehears ran well in the soft ground at Newbury last time when bestern a mark by Ivory's Joy in a nursery (6) with subsequent winner Mente Lemos in tird. He looks the one Double Brandy has to oversome. Dower Soul has been consistent on the fast ground and she has an obvious chance on her latest third of 17 to Bermuda Boy at Salsbury, Long leland can improve.

17	1	LEVY BOARD RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 6f Penalty Value £2,808
Ľ		
1	503600	CORSECAN (26) (Non Butter) 5 Dowr 8 0 Poe (7) 7 COURTINEY GYM (75) (39) (The Covenization Partnership) M Charmon 9 0T Outen 11 CARTICAL AIR (17) (Not Greig) Sh M Prescot 8 0 GO edited 9
2	0022	COURTNEY GYM (76) (BF) (The Cassicatore Partnership) M Channon 9 0T Quites 11
8	008	CRITICAL AIR (17) (Neil Greigt Str M Prescott 8 0 G Dutfield 9
4	040240	PLAME TOWER (39) (Matimood Al-Shunb) R Hannon 8 0
5	050	GOLDMASTER (26) (Thomas R Capatient) W O'Gorman 8 0 Esses O'Gorman 10 B
Ř		KANTONE (17) (Paul Kan) J Eristoca 80 J Tate 14 V
ž	04U550	LIFE SENTENCE (38) (Hopmod Racing) J G Smyth-Octourne 9 0
ė	508300	BLARNEY PARK (29) (Blarney Park Reong Club) C Dwyer 8 11 D O'Donohoe 5 V
8		IMPULSIVE DECISION (5) (Lackswood Racing Cub) M Meade 8 11
10	02000	KATHRES PET (17) (Nrs E A Turbur) R Hodges 8 11
11	6400	MERCURY FALLING (17) (Phile Benfield) D Arturbut 8 11S Whitworth 5
12	00000	MESS SIGTE (42) (E.J. Fernardi) T.J. Haughton 8 11
19	EE408	MOUNTAIN MACIC (18) (Pargood Limited) 12 Firench Darks 8 11 J Weaver 15
#	003000	PETALING (54) (Kernet Velley Thoroughbred I) B Mechan 8 11
	DOGGGGG	SELENT PRIDE (18) (Miss D G Kert) M Usher 8 11
.10		
10	. 0800	WILD LILLY (17) (William E Discos) All Ryen 8 11
		- 18 declared -

SETTING: 3-1 Flame Town, 9-2 Critical Air, 8-1 Impulsive Docision, 8-1 Petaling, Wild Lilly, 10-1 Courtney Gym, 12-1 Goldmanter, Kathies Pet, 14-1 Mountain Magic, Kantona, Silent Price, 16-1 Miles Science, 20-1 others 1990: Steep Return 29 0 A Clark 7-1 (M Pjen) drawn (6) 12 can

FORM QUIDE.

Critical Air ran his best race last time when a four-length secto of 14 to Arbenig on Wolver-hamptom's send. That suggests he likes to get his toe in so he could be a timest to them all in this week sprist. But preference is for PETALING, second to Lord Smith at Warwick in July and a decent third is her first-time binkers to Generous Emprese at Logistal last time when she raced on the opposite side of the course. Impulsive Decision just can out of puff when 11th to Mart-Ein in a Newmarket seller lest week. This filty should be suited by this six furtongs with some out judged on earlier staying-on efforts on a taster autience. Courtney Gym's seconds have been in sellers on fest ground, but the drop in class after nursary defeats will help. Flame Tower, who ran well in claims (second to Coloral Custer) on send beforehand.

Selection: PETALING

4.30 HERSTMONCEUX LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025

		added of Lendiry Anne To'TTA
ī	000300	PORCING BID (3) (D) (H R Moszkowcz) Sr M Prescott 3 8 3
		MISTER JOLSON (31) (C) (D) (8cb Frooms) R Hodges 891 R Cocksume 15 B
		OUT LINE (20) (D) (Mar CM Green) M Mactguick 5 9 1
	120102	MYSTICAL (29) (D) (Mise R M Ferr) Mrs L Shiebe 390
		SWINO (3) (Swirmerton Transport Lint) P Beans 3 9 0
		BROADSTAIRS BEAUTY (84) (D) (Ats Judy Hurt) D Shew 7 8 12 C Teague (5) 14 8
		KENTUCKY FALL (29) (D) (Mrs Erine Joyce Green) Lady Hernes 4 8 12 A Clark 13
		SHARP 'N SMART (101) (CO) (K H Paris) 8 Street 5 8 12
		BRAVEHEART (26) (W H Ponsorby) M Channon 8 8 11 T Calinn 1
1		BURNEY (23) (C) (Lord Sweything) J Duntop 5 9 ft
		NOPALEA (109) (T J Naughton) T J Naughton 85 tfT Sprains 5
		ROFFEY SPINNEY (17) (D) (Mrs D F Codd R Hennon 3 8 H
		TOPTON (S1) (George Strawbridge) I Baking 8.8 ft
		HALOWING (USA) (4) (D) (Astrop Stud) J G Smyth-Osbourne 8 88 D Sweeney (3) 4
		TITHCAR (17) JAbdalah Ali 8 Hantury 8 88 M Filmmer 7
		WARNING EXPRESS (31) (Or G W W Bo) R Armstong 388F Norton 8
	-	= 15 declared =
=1	TING 7.5	Culos 9.2 Mater Johns C.1 Mattled 9.1 Ferring Rid Bobble Keebele Sell 10.1

BETTING: 7-2 Swino, 9-2 Mister Jolson, 0-1 Mystitest, 9-1 Forcing Bid, Bubbly, Kentucky Fell, 10-1 Baseheart, 12-1 Brandsteins Beauty, Roffey Spinney, Forcing Bid, 14-1 others 1998: Purple Fing 5-8 12 R Cochene 4-1 tay (L. Cotter) down (f) 18 ran FORM GUIDE SWINO Ideally wents this abt striongs with cut in the ground so he did wall to win over the minimum frip on fast ground at Faction on Saturday, He sweeped lette to beat Royal Doms, and on his previous start he was badly drawn when a creditable tourth of 22 to Atumisiyah at Haydock (six furlongs in the mtud). Swino can be tended to melte a quick follow up with Mystical his Bissly chief rival, with Kieren Fallon reunited for the first time since their win at Brighton in August, Mister Jolson has won on this type of ground and his bisset stoory, from William Dale at Kerngton in May, was with today's parine; Ray Cochane. This oldtimer looks a sound each-very bet with Kentucky Fall probably more effective on a faster surface. Forcing Bid and Rieffey Spinney (in front of Swino as Nottingham less time) seem better on the el-westing.

10.5	אל לפונותו א	eem better on the ear-weather, Se	Nection	SWIND
	5.00	LEEDS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,500 ad Penalty Value £2,415	ded	1m 4f
. 1	042900	FOURDANIED (11) Lichy Fahoy) S Dow 48 10		Perham 8
2	35500	GLOW FORUM (17) (D) (Mine J D Anstee & Partners) L Montague He	188 TOP	Felica 7
3	0.000	PREMIER (35) (D) (Dr A Kimber) K Cornectord 88 8	1 O'COL	mor 15 a.
4	066888	SEA DANZIG (20) IP Codo J Bridger 4 8 7	N	Idages 12
5	000	Ringram 88.7	A W	cGlone 5
8	036600	PARINCAY (8) (Elengowan Flesing Partners) R Ingram 88.7	Dane !	O'Noll 18
7	40380	ESERONECA FRANCO (17) (CD) (JJ Whelein) P Hedger 488	_R Pirea	ch (3) 13
8	3000	(4) (8 Happes) Sir M Prescott 3 88		Juffield 4
8	030030	JER SPECULATOR (17) (D) (The Speculators) J Barles 4 8 4	.G Bend	Well 18Y
10	. 039401	DALIPHIM (11) (D) (Mrs Pita Brown) W Musson 493	NY	Migham 8
Ħ	005	BOB KNOWS (13) (Anthony Harrison) Fl. Johnson Houghton 3 8 3		A Clark 9
12		MEILLEUR (17) (The Cottage Racing Partnership) Lady Homes 8 83.		
13	551066	ADMITIALS SECRET (USA) (15) (D) (Mrs C A Well) C Well 883		anders 1
14		MARYJO (15) (D) (R Kiernen) G L Moore 882		
75	095650	HERRISHAN DANCER (15) (Kingtrol Partnership) B R Milmon 8 8 0	A Whel	aq (3) 10
10		MY ROLAND (29) (Mrs D R Hunnisett) J Fliich-Heyes 3 8 12		
7		WILDERIE (SWI) (31) (D) (Centebey Bloodstock Ltd) R Aleburgt 8 8 1		
18		VIBURAUM (6) (Lambourn Valley Racing) A Foster 8 8 ft		

= 18 declared =

BETTING: 8-1 Veronice Franco, 6-1 Dauphin, 8-1 Wildlife, 9-1 Admirats Secret, 10-1 Drift, Itelia
12-1 Persion Blass, Glove Forton, See Duzzig, Viburnum, 14-1 Bob Known, Mr Speculaior, Jenja
16-1 Herbathan Demoer, Manylo, My Rokand, 20-1 others
1996: Summertill Special 5 to 8 Mr K Gobie (5) 20-1 (Mrs. P Duttleich) drawn (7) 13 ran
FORIM GUIDE

PORTING GUIDE

A Chepetow soft-ground winner and a dual scorer on Southwell's sand, WILDFIRE should be in his element. He is 7to lower compared to his feast all-weather runs and looks that but with only Viburanus below him in the handcap. Wildfire was heavily backed on his last turt attempt, but he failed to give his true running behind Arif. He is capable of behalf turt attempt, but he failed to give his true running behind Arif. He is capable of behalf turt attempt, but he failed to give his true running behind Arif. He is capable of better than that and can reverse that form with Admiral's Secret (fifth), who is more suited to a fast surface. Desuphila, only 4th higher tor his win from Calapina, and off the same mark as her subsequent third to Children's Choice at Nothingtom (Biletileur a pleasing sixth). If she copes with the ground she will take some beeting. Sea Danzig tries a longer hip after his excord to Absolute Utopia at Salsbury. Drift showed nothing in the soft ground at Catterick last time, but Glow Forum would not be far away on his soith to Shooting Light at Sandown in August, Junikay has been showing some ability for the stop up in distance, and this softer ground could bring some improvement from Peastan Blue.

■ The former smart Flat-racer Suplizi warms up for a hurdling campaign at Newbury on Saturday. The six-year-old will line up for the Group Three St Simoo Stakes, his first outing since he finished fourth in a Listed eveot on the same course in May last year. Suplizi woo a Listed race for Luca Cumani in 1994 and was also a close third behind King's Theatre in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket the same year. But jumping will be on the horse's ageoda soon, according to his oew trainer Peter Bowen.

0- MARGIER (196) D Winds 7 10 5

-- 12 declared --BETTING: 5-2 Jainpeno, 4-1 Ganey, 8-2 Visman, 5-1 Lain Harvest, 8-1 Brasels Hill, 10-1 Drakestone, 22-1 Mr Bojangles, Oakmont, 14-1 Coun-

4.10 SEVERN SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS G) 23,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

- 8 decimed -BETTMG: 9-4 Incline Run, 11-4 Seehewk Retriver, 7-2 Grand Appleus 9-2 Mr Been, 7-1 Total Asset, 10-1 Pooh Sück

4.40 THAMES HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m 110yds

RESULTS

PLUMPTON 2.20: 1. REACH THE CLOUDS (R Supple) 6-1; 2. Global Dancer 12-1; 3. Docklands Courier 12-1: 12 ran. 9-2 tay Colour Courseior. 1/4, 14 (J Upson). Tober 2780; 2290, 2340, 3480, DF; 54700, CSF; 27656.

Tricest: £79681. Trio; £11160. 2.50: 1. STEAM ON (J. R. Kavanagh) 50-1; 3.10: 1, MONTECRISTO (C Lowther) 4-6 for; 2. Avrand Blue 16-1; 3. Wildmoor 9-2. B ran. 1/s, 2. (R Guest, Newmarket). Toke: E150: E10; 2:20; 2:20; DF; 2:500. CSF: E508. Tric: £880. NF: Heyer Va Korbet. 3.40: 1. NEEDWOOD EPIC (S Whitworth) 14-1; 2. Trooper 8-1; 3. ljab 12-1. 15 ran. 5-2 few Indigo Dawn, 7, 1/4. (B Morgan, Burson-On-Tirent). Rule: £2160: £430, £330, £330. 2-50: 1. STEAM ON (J.R. Kavensch) 50-1; 2. Althemine 2-9 tar; 3. Most Welcome News 7-1.7 ran. Hd, 2. (Mrs. L. Jewell), Totes 69:20; 69:20, Eth. DF: 63430. CSF: 26244, 3.20: 1. SAKWOON LILY (J. A. Mc-Carthy) 12-1; 2. Jaco Def Prince B-1; 3. Clay-more Lad 5-1. 13 ran. 7-2 tav Laughing Fonteine 6, 3. (P. Webber). Inter. 218:30, 54:30, 52:90, 52:00. DF: 65440. CSF: 278:94, Tho-sel: 58:53.07. This: 58:60.0 ast: £383.97, Trio: £86.80. 3.50: 1. NATIVE SHORE (Mr K R OFlyan) tichie Halvorsen) 11-1; 2. Percy 9-1; 3. Fit-grave 12-1, 16 ran. 3-1 fav High Money, 9, 1½. (J. FitzGersid, Malton). Tote: \$20.60; 2540, £270, £320, DF: £8370, CSF: £101.11.

13-2; 2. Miller's Mounic 13-2; 3. Laerim Alloox 7-1, 18 ran., 6-4 few Mischief Star, 11, 3. (C Mann), Tote: \$10.70; £3.70; £2.30; £2.30, DP: \$42.50, CSF: \$5123, Trio; £28.60, NF; Chlna Gem. 4,20: 1, BLACK CHURCH (D O'Sulfuen)

12-1; 2. Normacange 7-1; 3. Amber Sperit 100-30 tax. 11 ran. 3'4, 4. (R Rowe). Tota: £12-90; £310, £310, £190. DF: £3560. CSF: £3366. Tilcast: £32504. Tilo: £5090. 4.50: 1, NAHRAWALI (A P McCov) 7-2 jt fev; 2. Sorblere 9-1; 3. Phythm And Blues 5-1. 11 ran. 7-2 jt fev Persian Elfa. 4, nk. (G L Moore). Tote: \$470; £440, £230, £160. DF: £1300. CSF: £3569. Thoast: £5229. Tho: £8820. Placepot: £32580, Quadpot: £2720. Place 6: £302.05, Place 5: £48.97.

PONTEFRACT

230: 1. SHARP CRACKER (DMcKeown) 8-11 tav; 2. Blees 'Im 15-2; 3. Scene 9-1 13 ran. 1. /k. (M.Johnston, Mickleham). Tole: £160; £10, £20, £220, DP: £460, CSF: £584 This: E450. NR: Berts Gift.
3.00: 1. RUTLAND CHANTRY (K Dericy) Ti-2: 2. Bonenza Peak 4-1 fay; 3. Tipperary Sumest 10-1. 18 ran. 1, 2. (Lord Huntington, West Isley), Totas: 2830; 2230, 2150, 2200, 2180. DF: 22050. CSF: 22457. Titemet: 57200. 2150, \$200, \$2180 OF \$20050 CSF \$2457. Ticast: \$21908. Trio: \$2700. 3.30: 1. GULLAND (M Hills) 10-11 fav; 2. Familing Roses 9-2; 3. Cisphem Common 20-1. 8 ren. 2%, 7. (G Wrago, Newmesled). Tota: \$180; \$120, \$10, \$280, DF; \$230, CSF.

\$4.57.
4.00:1. SEPOWITZ (J Weaver) 11-2 it fav;
4. Highfield Flaz; 9-1; 3. All On 11-2 it fav;
4. Sad Mad Sad 8-1, 18 ran. 1½, 14. (C Cycoc, Horsham). Toke: \$560; \$150; \$160; \$160; \$220. DF: \$14.90. CSF: \$5186. Tricast: \$276.83. Tric: \$4000.
4.50: 1. AFAAN (T @ McLaughlin) 33-1;
4. Littlebella: 15-1, 17 ran. 1, ½, (F Marvin, December). The SCTOR 54 for 19 f

4. Littleetta 15-1-17 run. 1, 1/L. (R Mervin, Doncestor). Rote: \$5120; E140, \$220, \$640, \$630. DF: \$17760. CSF: \$18902. Tricast: \$3,65788. Tric: \$10000. NN: Teolete. \$.00: 1. PREBRUM QUEST (F. Norton) 14-1; 2. Mereka Mechine 10-1; 3. Polo Ventura 15-1: 9 run. 3-2 far Bawsian (6th). Mr. 1/L. (R Fetrey, Malton). Tota: \$2280; \$450, \$250, \$410, \$250. DF: \$25090. CSF: \$3486. Tricast: \$1,26181. Tric. \$57810. NN: Allaton. \$.30: 1. TrC41 (Dean McKeown) 40-1; 2. Premium Princese 7-2; 3. Recognition 9-2; 12 run. 100-30 far II Deathro (public up). Nr. 7. (R Bastiman, Watherby). Tota: \$4440; \$260, \$240, \$210. DF: \$14620. CSF: \$1003. Tric. \$5870. NR: Libelatyspit.

Trio. 269.70. NR: Lickstyspit. Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £51,877.61 car-ried forward to Follostons today. Placepot: £32.00, Quadpot: £26,70. Place d: £52.84, Place 5: £6728.

SOUTHWELL 2.10: 1. SANTA FATE (T Sprains) 5-2 tev; 2. Fra Tef 50-1; 3. Landson 8-1. 10 ran. 1/s, 2%, (8 Pelling, Cowbridge), Toke: 8440; 510, 5890, 2280, DP: 6220, CSF: 518420. Tri-cast: £71732. Trio; £8700.

 Officials at Wincantoo will begin watering the track today in an attempt to take the iar out of the ground in time for Thursday's meeting which could see Mr Mulligan in action for the first time since winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup in March. The gelding's trainer, Noel Chance, will walk the course this morning before deciding whether to run his charge in the Desert Orchid South West Pattern Chase. The trainer will not risk his stable star if the ground is too firm. Thursday's card will also feature Lester Piggott riding Desert Or-

ehid prior to the feature event

and John Francome, Peter Scu-

damore and Clare Balding con-

testing a charity Flat race.

2.40: 1, DANCING MYSTERY (A Daly) 16-1; 2. Mozambique 5-1; 3. Deintree 14-1. 14 ran. 6-4 fav Nobalno (4th). 2, 11/s. (5 Wheeler, Pangbourne). Tote: 52790; 5840, 5150, 5350. DF; 59160. CSP: 59847. Tho:

3.10: 1. MONTECRISTO (C Lowther) 4-6

DP: £3300, CSP: £118.88. Tricast: £1311.85. Tho: £340.50. 4.10: 1, SMOOTH PRINCESS (Bene-

Tric: £11460. 4.40: 1. JONA HOLLEY (G Parkin) 700-30 fav; 2. Bentico 14-1; 3. Zalotto 9-1; 4. Yeoman Oliver 10-1, 16 rant. 2/s. /s. (G L Moore, Brighton). Tote: £300; £20. £320, £260, £350, DF: £3700, CSF: £5686.

Tricast: £39470. Trio: £11460. Plecepot: £133450. Quadpot: £208 Place 6: £2,54914. Place 5: £893.57.

THE INDE	END	ENT					
RACING SERVICES 0891 261 +							
CHEPSTOW	971	981					
HUNTINGDON	972	982					
FOLKESTONE 973 983							
0891 261 970							



Jackie Stewart, Paul Stewart, Jan Magnussen, Rubens Barrichello will be at Harrods on Wednesday.

Signing copies of Racing Stewart: The Birth of a Grand Prix Team

in the Book Department, Second Floor, on Wednesday 22nd October 1997 at 2.30pm. Published by Macmillan, price £20.00.

If you are unable to attend please telephone on 0181 479 5100 to reserve your signed copy.



Harrods Limited, Knightsbridge, London SWIX 7XL

CHEPSTOW

2.10 Commanche Creek 2.40 El Don 3.10 Frazer Island 3.40 Jalapeno 4.10 Indian Run 4.40 Sofyan

Sofyan

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Left-hand, undulating course with run-in of 240yds.

Course is on A468. Chepsive station (Certiff - Gloucester Ins) im ADMISSION: Club 244-20. Tattersells £10-15. Public Enclosure & Course £3. (only open on certain cistes). CAR PARK: Free

LEADRING TRAINERS: M Pipe 38-157 (22.5%). P Hobbs 18-65 (22.7%), N Tiefston-Davises 18-67 (18.5%). P Nicholis 18-68 (22.1%).

LEADRING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 28-64 (27.7%), R Durawoody

LEADRING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 28-64 (27.7%), R Durawoody 22-114 (193%), C Limmilyn 14-83 (195%), R John PAVOURITES: 142-348 (407%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.10 WYE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added. 3m

HUNTINGDON

House 2.50 Forest Feather Web 3,50 Cats Run 4,20 Chabrol Run-in 200yds.

Hun-In 200705-TO A Part A South Huntingdon station (service to A DANISSION: Club £12, littlereside 25 Carl PAINC Free. 100 Carl PAINC Free. 74 19-39 (231%), J Jenkins 9-128 (7%). 19-30 (231%), J Jenkins 9-129 (79)
 LENDING DOCKEYS: N Williamson 15-63 (235%), D Bridgmeter 11-60 (133%), A Minguire 10-66 (152%), W Marston 8-51 (157%), PAYOURITHER 268-464 (436%), BLINGGRED PRIST TRIBE. For A Dreamer (450).

2.20 UPWOOD CONDITIONALS HANDICAP HANDLE (CLASS G) \$2,375 3m 2f CF) STREET MERCHON (F112) Mrs M Dutlett 7 to 0. P Horley
2015, SHOW THE SHOP (C) R Curis 10 ft 11 LJ Paridones 5)
2015, SHOW THE SHOP (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Dunne (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Dunne (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Connec (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Connec (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Connec (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Connec (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Connec (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M Lones 8 th 7 LM Connec (F)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M LONES 8 th 7 LM CONNEC (ET)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (ET) Mrs M LONES 8 th 7 LM CONNEC (ET)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (E)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (E)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C) (E)
2015, SHOW THE MISSING (C)
2015

SETTING: 6-4 Zancier 11-4 Mr Strong Gela, 5-1 Communiche Creek, 8-1 Indicest, 9-1 Golden Gran, 10-1 Kendal Caveller, 16-1 Clastes Casier RICHARD HOLDER HANDICAP HURDLE

2.40 (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

11 declared —
##hibraton weight: flost. Trushindicajo weights: Administy Way Set (180, Drase Dancosjat 80., ##Hibraton weight: Force, 7-2 El Don, 5-1 Barnepour, 6-1.1.mgh. Ratty,
7-1 Landed Gastry, Moving Ont, 6-1 Responsesses, 72-1 Myello Hill, Jorial Man, 33-1 others

8 00002 FREIO 2 40 (Bain / S 10 2 N Williamson 9 0333 UFALSES AND Early (3) (8F) F Morthy 5 10 0 P Carbony BETTING: 11-4 Foreign September 9.9 Freion, 5-1 Heavens Above, 11-2 Montheider, 32-2 Through September 1 1-4 (14-1 Felico, Orchard King,

ORCHINO AMERICA FELLOO (C) T Georgi 8 TO TO R TRANSPORTED LA WESTCOTE LSD (2:16) P Boven 5 TO 8 W Microson

3.40 SIMON'B 60TH BIRTHDAY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

3.10 SOUTHWEST RACING CLUBH CAP CHASE (CLASS C) 28,500 added 2m 3f 110yds

22.1- FRAZER SLAND (174) R Rows 8 12 0 ______ D O'Sullivan
31F0- PRATE BOX (176) (0) P Chamings 7 ti 11 _____ A Thomson
51F4-5 COOLINEE (17) (0) J Rong 9 11 8. _____ M A Flaguratid
178-22 WHO'S TO SAY (11) Dr P Printered 11 10 8 ____ Dr P Printered
178-22 BAYERO (10) (0) J D'Stree 8 10 4. ____ Michael Breume (3)
4892-5 BIT OF A TOUCH (22) (0) R Frost 11 10 0 _____ J Frost

- 5 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handings weight: Eit Of A Rouch Set 10lb. SET TBNC: 7-4 Fearer Island, 11-4 Bayerd, 4-1 Cookree, 13-2 Who's To Say, 8-1 Prate Box, 14-1 Bit Of A Tough

3.20 M J KEMBLE ERF NHE NOVICE HUR-BARTHOLOMEN FAIR (82) C Dwyer 8 11 0....... Lawrence

BESTING: 11-8 Secretal Wilderpoin; 11-2 Key Gdg, 8-1 The Pull Monty, 13-2 Into The Web, 8-1 Goodline George. 12-1 Swyeford Pride, 18-1 Chee-ing The Moon, 20-1 Bertholomew Pals, Run For Cover, 25-1 others 3.50 HOLYWELL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £4,950 added 3m

BETTING: 13-7 The Gopber 5-2 Cats Rus, 3-1 Monymoss, 6-1 Primitive Percey, 16-1 Rio Halms

OLDHURST NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS

URGENT REPLY (USA) (1922) C Dayer 4 10 11 _1 Learence P CRUISING FREE (91) L Montague Hall 8 10 7 ____ D Montague 50004 MOT TO PANIC (225) K Ruite 7 10 7 ____ R Supple — 11 sectored — BETTING: 3-1 Pestings, 9-2 Book, 13-2 Chebrol, 8-1 Macts Supreme, 7-1 Physical Fon, 6-1 Urgent Repty, 10-1 Figur Lake, 16-1 Not To Panic, 25-1 Desert Challeggs, 33-1 others

4.50 CHURCH END HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,925 added 2m 110yds 05-00 FM A DREMER (7) 40 Mes M Routerd 7 ti 10... P Midgley (5) V

OS-00 PMANDHA (11) (CO) K MOREN 7 11 5... A 5 Smith 6500 BELMARTIA (Pis) G Habbard 4 10 22... R Eliter (7) Q/IP- MY MAN IN DIRENALK (253) (D) B Cutay 8 10 12... Aprel (3) 21-68 CULLIN CAPER (15) (D) T Walson 5 10 8... R Thornion (5) 8658 GUALITAIR PRIDE (PIO) J Hebraton 5 10 5... D Byrma

- 8 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Warndha, 11-4 Beknarita, 9-2 I'm'A Dree in Dundek, 7-1 Queltair Pride, 9-1 Cullin Caper

European trip finds Villa at crossroads

Brian Little needs his next big buy, whether it is Paul Gascoigne or not, to make an impact to match his fee. Aston Villa need success in Europe to keep their season alive.

Phil Show reflects on a. club desperately trying to rediscover its winning formula.

Pessimists say that if you can see a light at the end of the tunnel, it probably means there is an express burtling towards you. Just when it seemed Aston Villa and Brian Little were emerging from the darkest of starts to the season, they find make-or-break time approaching fast.

Capitulation in the Coca-Cola Cup at West Ham, followed by a Premiership bome defeat against Wimbledon, means one of the pre-season favourites have only two competitions left in which to fulfil their manager's promise to win a trophy. But Villa have not lifted the FA Cup for 40 years, and in the Uefa Cup they face a torrid test in Bilbao tonight.

Meanwhile, Little still hopes to sign Paul Gascoigne, yet the element of risk extends beyond whether a flawed genius in his 31st year is worth £4mplus. Little has not enjoyed conspicuous success with his previous big-money recruits and may not survive another

in jeopardy. Villa's players respect him and the fans identify with his obvious feeling for the club he first joined 30 years ago as a 15-year-old. Even that serial sacker of managers, "Deadly" Doug Ellis, has said the job is his "until I turn my toes up".

Although toe-curling tributes from the chairman did not save several predecessors from the swing of Ellis's axe, Little went into the campaign looking as secure as anyone in his profession. After replacing Ron Atkinson, he led Villa to successive top-five finishes and the Coca-Cola Cup in his first

Stan Collymore was identified as the missing ingredient. and £7m did not seem excessive for a catalyst to turn them into title contenders. The portents were so promising that Little assured shareholders concerned by early setbacks that Villa would win some silverware this time.

When they had lost four in a row - the worst start in their history - he described the situation as "worse than my worst nightmare". So the bold idea of fielding a front three of Cotlymore, Dwight Yorke and Savo Milosevic was ditched. Villa reverted to the 3-5-2 system that Terry Venables once hailed as "a bridge between the English and Continental games" and results picked up

They have now lost six League games, however, and there are still 27 to go. Over the past decade the average number of defeats for the champions has been 4.6. Concentrating mid-September is rather early to start.

In one sense, Little is a victim of his own achievements. On taking over he found Ellis "obsessed" with staying up and an ageing team who, while able to raise themselves for one-offs like Wembley or Internazionale, no longer had the appetite for three intense games a week.

He rebuilt the squad by stealth. The likes of Ray Houghton, Kevin Richardson and Dean Saunders were moved out, their places taken by the younger, bungrier Ian Taylor, Alan Wright and Gary Charles. Two of Atkinson's fringe players, Yorke and Ugo Ehiogu, became central to Little's strategy while Mark Bosnich took over permanent-

Vilta's rejuvenation appeared so complete that Ellis felt moved to call Little "priceless - the best in the League". Yorke rocketed into the £10m bracket and Ehiogu joined his Villa colleague Gareth Southgate in the England side. But while the former Darlington and Leicester manager showed a flair for bargains - Southgate, at £2m, is the outstanding example - his forays into the top end of the market have served Villa less well.

went on three players, it appears reasonable to expect them to have contributed more towards belping Villa cross the Rubicon. Milosevic, bought for £3.5m on the strength of a video, has a tal-At the moment, his job is not on the cups is all very well, hut ent to be muse. One minute ner with the ball, his apprecia-

Since balf his £29m outlay

a deft pass with the ontside of the foot. Sasa Cnrcic, with Mark Draper the player most threatened by Gascoigne's possible arrival, cost £4m. A gifted run-

clumsy, gauche and more onetion of team patterns and his temperament are so suspect footed than anyone since Long John Silver, the next curling a that Villa were prepared to abshot round a keeper or hitting sorb a £2m loss when Wolves enquired. After skipping training and criticising the club-not for the first time - he is now on

> As for Collymore, his response to being jeered on his

ingham's Sports Argus to praise him for "coming out fighting". By the time the paper hit the streets be had been sent off at Bolton... for fighting.

It is premature to write off striker rated so highly by Glenn Hoddle. But a doubt persists, and is nagging again with the pursuit of Gazza, that Lit-

purchases. Villa ought to have been acquiring proven Premiership performers, especially when he was no longer hibited by the problem he met on being spurned by Les Ferdinand in 1995. All be could offer then was a club who had avoided the drop.

Under-achievement can be tle tends to gamble on key an expensive business in foot-

ball, and not just in financial terms. While Collymore's soittary goal bas cost Villa £350,000 in wages and Gascoigne might set them back £40,000 a week, Little knows, as be looks for a chink of light in Bilbao, that be could pay a far harsher price should be fail to satisfy the expectations he



Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, is facing a test of his own and his team's character in Bilbao tonight

Photograph: Alisport

ming:

kas ! ...

West Brom face test of promotion credentials

Richard Sneekes, the West -if we want to be near the top, Bromwich Albion midfield player, believes two games in five days will determine if the Baggies are capable of staying in the promotion race.

Ray Harford's men take on pacesetters Nottingham Forest at the City Ground tonight and Sheffield United on Saturday at The Hawthoms.

Sneekes said: "The results pointer to how well we can expect to perform in the First Division this season.

"It's still too early to talk about where we will be in April, but one thing is certain

we have to beat the better teams like Forest and Sheffield

now third just two points behind Forest, have a slight doubt over Sean Flynn, who suffered a cut bead in the weekend win at Portsmouth.

Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, is ready to name an unchanged side, even though he was disappointed his team took only a point from a bome match with struggling Tranmere on Saturday.

Their captain, Colin Cooper, said: "It's probably the

the season so far. If West Brom were to beat us, they would knock us off top spot, but, by West Bromwich, who are the same token, we could open up a gap at the top by beating them. It's a vitally important

> At the other end of the table the Huddersfield manager, Peter Jackson, is refusing to blame his injury jinx for his side's woeful start to the season.

Huddersfield have three key players on the long-term injury

list and lie bottom of the table with no wins and just four points. But before tonight's game with Port Vale, Jackson said:

game for both teams."

biggest First Division game of "This club is not bottom of the have to gauge ourselves Jamie Redknapp is set to make the season so far. If West Brom table because of the injury sit-against," Wilkins said. "I think his comeback for Liverpool in table because of the injury situation. It's because of bad per-

> Jackson bas dropped his interest in local-born striker Wayne Allison after failing to agree a price with Swindon. We made a fair and firm offer for Wayne," Jackson said. "But they turned it down and we can't go any higher."

> Ray Wilkins takes his Pulham the Second Division and sees the game as an ideal opportunity to measure progress made so far. "Watford being the leaders

it's been totally forgotten that we are a newly promoted side and it's a new experience for most

of our players at this level. "It's wrong to think we are going to thrash people left, right and centre, and we bave to give the lads credit for what they have done so far. We have a lot of things to sort out, but Liverpool's derby humiliation we are all pulling together in the right direction."

Watford's manager, Graham Taylor, will not make many changes despite Saturday's defeat against Millwall, the Hormeans they are the team we nets' first loss in eight games.

his comeback for Liverpool in their Uefa Cup second round first leg against Strasbourg in

France tonight. The England midfield player has not appeared for the first team since breaking an ankle playing in an international against South Africa at Old Trafford last season. But, after to Everton at the weekend, the 24-year-old could find himself thrown into the front line.

"I'm fit," Redknappsaid. "I would like to play but I will have to wait and see what the boss

"It has been difficult sitting and watching, and I've had enough of injury problems."

Redknapp set for comeback

The Norwegian Oyvind Leonhardsen could also play his first full game of the season, after hamstring problems had kept him on the sidelines since his £3.5m move from Wimbledon in the summer.

The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, has found his squad undermined by injuries. He strikers Karlbeinz Riedle (groin) and Patrik Berger (Achilles), and is also without Phil Babb and Jamie Carragher

Without Riedle and Berger, Liverpool can either play Michael Owen up front alongside Robbie Fowler, or revert to a five-man midfield with Fowler alone in attack.

Michael Thomas's display in midfield against Everton was not particularly reassuring, and -Evans could opt to pair Redknapp alongside Paul Ince with Leonhardsen and Steve McManaman on the flanks.

In defence, too, be has problems, but at least he can field a fit-again Roh Jones, while Mark Wright - whose experience could be crucial - is also available after a back problem.

Clive Woodward is the cheeky chappie from Form 5B who has an answer for everything



ALAN WATKINS ON RUGBY

mixed lot. Geoff Cooke was the honest professional who believed in winning. Jack Rowell was the enigmatic boardroom boss who was always promising a dividend tomorrow but never today. Clive Woodward is the cheeky chappie from Form 5B who always bas an answer for everything. He looks like being the most en-

tertaining of he bunch personally. though whether be can produce entertaining rugby as well - as be says be wants to - is another matter. Cooke at any rate would have echoed Alex Ferguson of Manchester United, saying that if people want entertainment, they can go to the bloody circus.

Woodward was clearly right to prune drastically England's original squad of 77. A squad of such a number is a contradiction in terms.

England's managers have been a Whether he was right to cut it to 23, is now proceeding. A country which enough preliminary capital to gain as be did to start with, is more questionable. That number likewise is something of a contradiction.

For the essence of a squad is surely that its members should play to an agreed pattern and that in specific positions the players should be interchangeable. Thus a right wing cannot always play on the left. An outside centre is not invariably happy on the inside. Tight-head and loose-head props are different. Front and middle jumpers require their specialisms. The No 6 is now, commonly, in build and style, nearer to a No 8 than to a No 7.

These obvious truths inevitably lead to a squad of 30. This does not imply a rota system, which is a mistake that Bath, among other clubs have made. This is being demonstrated weekly in the entertaining and well written television series that

picked its players on a rota basis, instead of that of the best team available, would be considered quite mad. Why then should a leading professional club be any different?

Woodward was also right to base his selection on the Lions party in South Africa. Tim Stimpson. though he appeared slow on the turn and not altogether sure in his handling, made numerous good attacking runs. Above all, be transformed himself - or was transformed by Dave Aldred - into a formidable place-kicker. And John Bentley was one of the stars, of whom Stuart Barnes, the Bill Deedes, or perbaps the Willie Whitelaw, of rugby commentating remarked: "If he were in India, he'd one of the untouchables."

Matt Dawson's marvellous durumy and try should ensure him

preference over Austin Healey, Kyran Bracken or the unlucky fourth man, Andy Gomarsall. On the left wing I should bave no bes-itation in choosing Adedayo Adebayo, who did not go to South

did, even if the latter managed to regain fitness in time. This leaves the troubled midfield. If I have anything against Rowell, it is that last season he did not give us the opportunity to see Jeremy Guscott in his silver age, except as a substitution. Perhaps we shall now never see him again. We shall almost cer-

Africa, over Tony Underwood, who

tainly not see him before Christmas. It has been suggested that Mike Catt should be paired with Will Greenwood in the centre, with Alex King at outside-half. It would be even more exciting if Gary Connolly could be lured back from rugby

league and played outside Greenwood. Before the new year last season, when he returned to league, Connolly added I should say 50 per cent to the Harlequin back division.

Allan Bateman, a similar player, did the same or more for Richmond last Saturday, as he did for Wales last season. With the Lions against South Africa he was given no chance except in the last Test as a substitute, on account of the presence of Guscott. Both Bateman and Connolly possess speed, anticipation, unselfishness and, above all, the capacity to break two or three tackles while staying on their feet before delivering the crucial pass. But getting Connolly into the England side would clearly re-

No such manocuvres would be necessary in assembling a front row. This is also one of Woodward's worries; or it ought to be. When Jeff

quire complicated negotiations.

Probyn, whose views I normally respect, said recently that the England front row, presumably consisting of Graham Rowntree, Mark Regan and Jason Leonard, could take on any Lions trio I really could not understand what he thought he was

talking about. For in South Africa these England players proved a grievious disappointment. The Celtic contingent of Tom Smith, Keith Wood and Paul Wallace were preferred instead. From England's point of view the present trouble derives. from persisting with Leonard at tight head when he is a natural toose

My team would be: T Stimpson; J Bentley, G Connolly, W Greenwood, A Adebayo; M Catt, M Dawson; J Leonard, M Regan, J. Malien, M Johnson, S Shaw, L Dallaglio (capt), T Rodber, R Hill.





Agassi all talk after brief encounter

The Eurocard Open said hello and goodbye to Andre Agassi when the Las Vegan turned up to accept a wild card into the \$2.3m ATP Tour Yent in Stuttgart yesterday. Ah, well, says John Roberts, bring on the

It is a sign of changing times and faces that we are now able to spend the start of a \$2.3m (£1.5m) tournament watching Andre Agassi, a wild card ranked No 102 in the world, play Todd Martin, a lucky loser, to wile away the time until Brits take the court.

Our old friend Agassi, not seen since his departure from the United States Open seven weeks ago, popped hack into the game for 70 minutes yesterday, lost in straight sets in the opening round of the Eurocard Resen, and talked a rosy future.

The 1992 Wimbledon champion's chat, unlike much of his

commitment and good intentions. This is just as well, coosidering that his record for the year is 12 wins and 13 defeats. a poor return when set against the workload of his wife, the actress Brooke Shields.

As Agassi said: "The only American I'm aware of that works harder than Brooke is the President of the United States. I mean, this girl, she doesn't stop. She's like the damn Energizer Bunny. She works hard and it is very important to her to do everything she does well and to do it with everything she has."

Might there be a lesson for hubby? "Quite honestly. I think I have been nothing short of frustrating for her recently on that level. So her support has been actually motivating. As fairy-tale as it may sound, she wants whatever I want for myself and right now she knows what it is."

Had there been occasions when he wondered if it was worth trying to make the effort? "No. tt is worth it, because it's not about anything but a personal desire of mine, A lot of times my career was filled with performance, was filled with doing stuff for other reasons, but in the second round tomorrow.

this is important to me. I need to do it for myself. I really want to play. I want to play hard."

Martin, whose season has been hampered by an elbow iniury, bruke once in each set to eliminate his American compatriot, 6-4, 6-4. Agassi took some consolation from holding serve to love at 3-5 in the second set.

So where does that leave Agassi? "I think with hard work, improving my footwork, losing a little bit of weight, getting a bit stronger, I am thinking a couple of months in the oext year I could be literally playing great tennis."

Agassi is about to wind up his tournament year by taking a wild card into next week's indoor event in Paris. At least he turned up here, which was more than could be said after wild cards had been set aside for him in Baste and Vienna.

Tim Henman, ranked No 19, is due to play this afternoon against the young German Tommy Haas, runner-up in Lyon last weck. Greg Rusedski, giveo a bye as the No 5 seed, plays Germany's Nicolas Kiefer

2) n drain

Redgrave has diabetes

Steven Redgrave, a rowing gold medal winner in four successive

Olympics, has diabetes. Hugh Matheson details the new challenge facing ! Is awesomely tough competitor as he prepares for Sydney

The bad news for Steven Redgrave came on 29 September when doctors at High

Wycombe General in Buekinghamshire told him why a fit 35-year-old athlete should have returned from a family holiday feeling lethargic and weak.

Dr Laurence Fandler, a consultant diabetologist, pointed out that insulin-dependent diabetes is more commonly found in people under 40 and that a patient of Redgrave's fitness would, provided he managed the condition appropriately, lead a

nosis days before beginning training for the new season in not be at the risk of his health."

the coxless four who won the World Championship in September. Although depressed by the news, he discussed it with the other members of the four, James Cracknell, Tim Foster and his long-time pairs partner. Matthew Pinsent.

Along with the coach, Jürgen Grobler, they agreed that he should train on within the group and monitor his progress. The number one thing is his health," Grobler said, "Pro-Redgrave learned the diag- "vided he can train effectively we want him in the four but it must



he beat George Foreman for the world heavyweight title in the "Rumble In the Jungle" drew some of the highest bids on Sunday in Beverly Hills, California, at an auction of Ali memorabilia.

Ali regained the heavyweight championship with an eighth-round knock-out of Foreman in Zaire. The white cloth, calf-length robe decorated with African patterns and elaborate beadwork was sold for \$156,500 (£97,000) to a telephone bidder. The trunks sold for \$57,500 and the shoes went for \$59,500 to separate bidders in the tent at Christie's.

"It's great. A lot of Muhammad Ali's fans have spoken for their love for Ali and the memorabilia that's available," said Ronnie Paloger, a Los Angeles businessman who put his private collection on the block.

Ali was said by his attorney to be dis-

earlier said some of the items were stolen from him, but Christie's officials said Paloger owned everything on offer.

"I haven't done anything other than put together a great collection," said Paloger, who arnassed about 3,000 items over a seven-year period. Asked if he was bothered by the criticism, Paloger smiled and said: "Muhammad Ali's my hero. He's still the greatest."

Another robe worn by Cassius Clay, Ali's name before he converted to the Muslim religion, sold for \$20,000. The robe, from the fight with Sonny Liston on 25 February 1964, features the words "The Lip" stitched on the back in red letters.

The auction drew a varied crowd, some of whom were too young to have seen Ali In his heyday of the 1960s and 1970s.

ICE HOCKEY

Double blow

for Basingstoke

Basingstoke Bison endured a

miserable weekend. First, they

went out of the Benson and

Hedges Cup to Newcastle Co-

bras, then they lost their un-

beaten Superleague record

home by Newcastle Cobras in

Saturday's B&H quarter-final,

after drawing the tricky first teg

on Typeside 1-1. Brett Stewart's

hat-trick belped the visitors into

the semis. On Sunday Bison went

behind after 97 seconds on their

way to a 5-3 defeat by the Bees.

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP Semi-final draw. Newcester v Cardif: Manchester v Ayr. Two-leg like to be played between 37 October and 5 November.

Bison were bumbled 5-1 at

against Bracknell Bees.

Photograph: Reuter

All Blacks secure biggest-ever sponsorship deal

New Zealand's state-ofthe-art rugby union team were even more in the black than usual yesterday as Adidas, the German sportswear group, finalised a recordbreaking kit agreement.

Chris Hewett reports on another spectacular success for Sean Fitzpatrick's pacesetters.

When you're hot, you're hot. The All Blacks can do no wrong at the moment - the reigning Tri-Nations champions have not lost a match for well over a year - and yesterday, they raked in an estimated £28m of new money as Adidas beat their rival sportswear manufactuers, Nike, to the biggest sponsorship deal in rughy bistory. All they need to do now is persuade Elton John to record a version of the "haka". A Christmas No 1 would be

guaranteed. Nike, who recently clinched £20m deal with England and have both the Springboks and Brazil's world champion football team in their portfolio, had been favourites to land the All Black contract after putting almost £26m on the table. David Moffett, the chief executive of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union, refused to divulge the precise value of the Adidas offer but he confirmed that it was in excess of the Nike

Adidas will supply kit. footwear and other sports equipment for the oext five years, not just to the All Blacks hut to other New Zealand representative sides, including their Super 12 provincial teams. Kevin Roberts, an NZRFU board member, insisted that the netional shirt would oot be changing radically, which will come as a relicf to those traditionalists who believe Australia's new Reehok shirt resembles nothing more palatable than a bad night after a lobster dinner.

"We've sold out nothing here." Roberts said. "We have total control of the property and we'll stay the men in black. The deal puts us ahead of anyone else in the rugby world."

The legitimacy of that view was reinforced yesterday by Cliff Brittle, chairman of the Eoglish RFU, who said: "The agreement illustrates the thines we have been saying for some time. The All Blacks are the best team in the world and if you are a successful internstional leam, the sponsors will queue up to put big money into your national game."

Dalton prepared for fight to finish

The crews in the Whitbread Round-the-World Race will be glad when the first leg is over, as Stuart Alexander reports from Cape Town.

As Cape Town prepared for a middle-of-the-night welcome for a Paul Cayard win in the first leg of the Whitbread Race in EF Language, 135 miles behind him Grant Dalton's Merit Cup and Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner were locked in a

battle for second place. Just three miles separated them with 300 miles to go, and Dalton said he was not short of firepower despite a pile of spinnakers oeeding to be mended. But be bas regained the second slot from being five miles behind Frostad, who has his own problems with breakages. While Dalton was reporting a broken halyard which dropped a spinnaker in the water, Frostad was bemoaning a ripped spinnaker and a broken steering cable.

Frostad also said that "the galley is empty" echoing a shortage of food that is becoming prevalent on a 7,350-mile leg from Southampton that has taken longer than many planned. On America's Challenge, the skipper, Ross Field, said they had no milk powder and were using orange-flavoured, reconstituted isotonic drink for both corntlakes and tea.

Both Dalton and Frostad are expected in this evening with the British boat, Silk Cut, secure in its fourth place, forecast to arrive in the early bours of Thursday morning. The time gap, now that the race is scored on accumulated points rather than time, is therefore less of s worry for Silk Cut's skipper. Lawrie Smith. But the back markers, EF Education's allwoman crew and the Dutch hoat, Bruoel Sunergy, will be battling on into next week.

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (first leg. 7,350 miles, Southerspion to Cape flows) Lifest positions; 1 EF Language (Swo) Payard 185 miles to first: 2 Merit Cop (Monaco) G Delson 136 miles behard leader; 3 hnowation (Negerier (Nor) K Fostad + 144, 4 Se; Cut (GB) L Smith + 454; 9 Cheese Racing (US) M Flacher + 79; 6 Teshibe (US) C Delson + 286; 7 Americats Challenge (US) B Fleid + 578; 8 Swedish Malch (Swe) G Krastz + 194; 9 EF Education Challenge (US) C Delson + 286; 9 EF Education Swe) C Guillow + 190; 10 Ennol Surrergy (Neth) H Bouscholte + 1305.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bulls move for Robinson

The Great Britain rugby league winger Jason Robinson, who is under contract to the Australian Rughy League, looks set to return to Wigan - despite a surprise move for him by the Super League champions

Bradford Bulls. The Ceotral Park giants are close to completing negotiations with the ARL to buy hack the 23-year-old's contract, which would release Robinson to play in the forthoming British Gas Test series against the Australian Super

Bradford have made an offer to the ARL for the worldclass back, but concede that Wigan remain favourites to retain his services, although the Bulls involvement in the affair appears to have been precipitated by the Australians.

The Buils coach, Matthew Elliott, said: "I was talking to Geoff Carr |a representative for the ARLI about another matter and he asked if we ; would be interested in Jason. The answer was obvious

nd we put together a payment an, but I gather that Wigan have contacted the ARL with a concrete payment scheme."

SPORTING DIGEST

Athletics

British athletics was yesterday left in imbo after a petition to install official administrators was adjourned by a civactivities teams was automated by a tra-if court in Birmingham. The British Ath-letic Federation, put under the control of three interim extrainistrators last week after running up debts estimated at 2550,000, had filed a petition for an ac-ministration order. BAF afficials now benefits and power barring will be set for ministration order. BAF afficials now hope the new hearing will be set for next week and an official administrator appointed as soon as possible as they attempt to avert bankruptcy. CHICAGO MARATHON (Chicago): Men: 1 K Khannouchi (Mor) 2hr 7mm 10sec; 2 F Kiprop (Ken) 2:08.6; 5 F Millengu (Ken) 2:08.6; 6 Caristro (Chen) 2:31.31; 3 (Bogacheva (Ukr) 2:35.31)

WORLD SERIES: Cleveland 6 Flonda 1 (Best-of-seven series tied 1-1).

Basketbrall
Dennis Rodman, who agreed to a oneyear contract with the Chicago Bulls,
now says he won't sign the deal as
planned because he doesn't like the
incentive clauses in it. Rodman told
the Chicago Tifbune in an article published yestarday that injuries to Scottie Pippen and Toni Kulkoc could
lower the number of games the Bulls
win – and consequently hurt Rodman's
bottom line because the incentives are
tied to Chicago victories. tied to Chicago victories. BUDWEISER LEAGUE TABLE.

Robert Norton, the Stourbridge cruis-erweight, is to challenge Bellast's Dar-

ren Corbett for the Commonwealth titer extraorith. Norton will take on Cor-bett in front of the champion's homelown fans in Belfast on Satur-day 22 November. The fixture should have taken place lest month, but was postported when Corbett suffered an adde

posporied what Corpett suriered an aridia injury in training.

AMATEUR WORLD CHAMPIONISHIPS (Budapeat): Light-flyweight (48 kg) aec-ond round: I Napa (GB) bt M Valcu (Fibril 15-6. Stig second round: F Obsobia (GB) bt A M Amr (Egy) 10-10 (bie-break).

Proceedings to the Kilmamock goal-keeper, and the Aston Villa striker Savo Milosevic were yesterday named in Yu-goslavia's squad for the World Cup play-off first leg with Hungary on 29 October in Budapest.

play-off first leg with Hungary on 29 October in Budapest.

FA ILMBRO TROPHY SECOND ROUND GUALIFYING DRAW: Eastwood Town or Reddich United v Worksop Town; Winstord United v Spermymoor United; Stafford Foreign for Hindsby United v Netherfield or Willby Bown; Raddithe Borough v Frieday Athletic or Leigh; PMI Stouthridge v Great Harwood Town; Witton Abion v Paget Rangers or Bilston Town; Solfhull Borough v Alfreign Town; Gairsborough Tirnty v Bedworth United; Workington in v Harrogade Fown in Herberg Town or Staffor Coldied Town; Landon United v Belger Town or Droyleden; Termorth v Moor Green; Paget Town or Abingdon Town v Wolkington Town; Gerbridge City Derthod; Crawley Town v Bishop's Stortford; Sectionarised Town v Brackley Town; Carbingdon Town; Welthey Town; Conditions of Welther, Begins Town; Undarlegs or Weymouth v Worthing; Bognor Regis Town; Chasham United; Cyford City w Wisbech Town; Allershor Fown; Remitted Town v Bashop's Town; Undarlegs or Weymouth v Worthing; Bognor Regis Town; Chasham United; Cyford City w Wisbech Town; Allershor Town; Partner v Molesey; Welson & Hersham v Bestiey. Tee

Hale Inwin, who two weeks ago be-came the first player on any tour to win \$2m (£13m) in a single season, equated the Senior Tour record with his night win of the year as he fri-umphed by three shots at the Kasna-pali Classic in Hawaii on Sunday.

HYATT REGENCY MAUI KAANAPALI SE-NIJORS CLASSIC (Harwit) Leading final scores (US united stated): 200 H Irwin 67 63 70 203 M Hai 70 64 69; 8 Summerbays 64 65 74 204 R Thompson 66 85 71 205 8 Charles 67 66 72 206 W H Hai 67 69 70 207 I Acki 71 70 69; K Zarley 70 64 73 208 J Klefer 73 67 69; F Corner 88 69 71 72 209 9 Duvat 74 69 66; J C Shead 64 73 72; 8 Acton 71 65 72, 210 S Hobday 68 73 69; O Outgay 71 69 70; J Sept 68 71 71; O Stockton 71 69 70; 9 Albn 71 68 71; 211 McGeo 70 73 68; G Marsh 72 69 70; J Ja-cobs 69 67 75; J Albn 86 69 78; WALT DISNEY WORLD CLASSIC TOURI-

cobs 69 68 73; J Albus 69 69 74.
WALT DISNEY WORLD CLASSIC TOUR-NAMENT (Lake Busine Visits, File) Leading fitted ecores (US unless stated): 270 ft Duval 70, ft Forman 69 (Dusal won at first physiol fole), 272 T Trybs 69 L Matthews 74, 273 P Goydos 66, 274 O Browne 70, 275 J Durant 70, P Backner 73, L January 72, Selected; 279 T Lehrman 71, J Maggart 70, 278 T Wooth 71.

Hockey
EHA MEN'S CUP Third-round draw:
Stourport v De Montfort Univ; Bhdgnorth v
lpowort; Bournville v Sheffield; Harleston
Magpas v Naston; Norton v Warrington;
Hampton-Harden v Harrogale; Brooklands v Peterborough Town; Ramgarhia
(Leeds) v Spalding; Blutherts v Cernordge
Chy; Eastoote v Brontley; Hamptoleod &
Westninste v Gloucester Chy; locu v Paraham; Robinsons o Christofort; Old Cronleighans v City of Portsmouth; Old
Georgiere v St Albans; Trojans v Chichaster;
West Herits v Cadord Harvis; Bournermouth
v Backerham; Windhester v High Wycombe;
Havant v Stribton. (Ties to be played Sunday 2 November).

ice hockey

Rugby Union
1998 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING Round
8 European zone Pool 1: (Makaraka,
Croe): Croeis 23 Russia 15 (Frederikaberi,
Den): Georgis 15 Denmari, 8. Pool 3
(Henzwer, Ger): Germany 31 Casch Republic 17 Pool 2 (Georgis 148 Sejaim
5. American Zone (Sentiago): Chie 65

Swimming

Guo Onglong, president of the gov-erment-backed Chinese Swimming Association, defended world records set by swimmers at Chinese eighth Ne-tional Games on Sunday, by claiming that investment in people and facil-ties, not doping, was the key to swim-ming success. Hours earlier Don Rabot, the Australian head coach, said he had no do that the Chinese were ushe had no doubt the Chinese were us-

O'Sulfiven (Eng) 5-2; J Haggins (Sco) bt O Hann (Aus) 5-4; A Burden (Eng) bt N Bond (Eng) 5-3; C Small (Sco) bt P Davies (Wal)

Tennis

EUROCARD OPEN (Stuttgart, Gor)

Men's singles, furt round: J Stenorink
(Neth) bt 9 Schalken (Neth) 8-4 6-2. O Priross (Ger) bt M Rosaet (Swit) 5-7 8-4
6-2; H Arazi (Mor) bt A O'Brien (US) 6-3
2-6 6-3; T Maritin (US) bt A Agassi (US)
6-4 6-4; M Larsson (Swe) bt 7 Woodendge
(Aua) 6-2 6-3: N Kieler (Ger) bt 7 Johansson
(Swe) 6-3 3-6 6-1; M Gustationon (Swe) bt A
Portes (Sp) 8-1 6-1

LUXEMBOURG OPEN WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT Standes, first round: K HabouNAMENT Standes, first round: K Habou-A FORIAS (SO) 5-1 5-1.
LINEMBOURG OPEN WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT Singles, first round; K Habsudova (Stovak) bt I Spines (Pern) who, E
Lichovizever (Plus) bt Y Basuki (Indon) 7-6
8-1; S Testud (Fr) bt A Certsion (Swe) 8-1
6-4; J Kruger (SA) bt M Maleever (Bul) 6-2
6-3.

5-3
LEADING ATP TOUR RANKINGS: 1 P
Sampres (US) 4.291 pts; 2 M Chang (US)
3.385; 3 P Ratter (Aus) 2.895; 4 G hransevic (Croe) 2.822; 5 G Ruseckix (GS)
2.504; 8 Y Kateinicov (Rus) 2.480; 7 C Moye
(Sp) 2.481; 8 S Ruguere (Sp) 2.251; 1 1
Master (Aut; 2.371; 10 M Rico (Crite)
2.286; 11 A Correta (Sp) 2.251; 12 G
Kuerten (BY 2.240; 13 J Bjortnern (Swe)
2.392; 14 F Martilla (Sp) 2.105; 15 R Kralook (Nahl) 1.895; 16 T Enqvist (Swe) 1827;
17 P Korda (CZ Rep) 1.890; 18 M Philopoussis (Aus) 1.805; 19 T Henman (GB)
1785; 20 A Costa (Sp) 1778.
LEADING WTA TOUR RANKSHSS: 1 M
Hingis Swill 6830165; 2 J Noother (CZ Rep)
3.590; 5 M Selec (US) 3.425; 4 L Devemport
(US) 3.307; 5 A Coetzer (Sp) 2.53; 3 11 Mber (Ger) 2.722; 12 M J Fernandez (US)
1.971; 135 Testud (Fr) 1.685; 14 Grat (Ger)
1.972; 135 Testud (Fr) 1.685; 14 Grat (Ger)
1.973; 135 Testud (Fr) 1.685; 14 Grat (Ger)
1.974; 135 Testud (Fr) 1.685; 14 Grat (Ger)
1.975; 10 C Martinez (Sp) 2.257; 10 C Martinez (Sp)
2.977; 10 S Testud (Fr) 1.685; 14 Grat (Ger)
1.974; 135 Testud (Fr) 1.985; 14 Grat (Ger)
1.975; 10 C Martinez (Sp) 2.925; 11 A Huber (Ger) 2.722; 12 M J Fernandez (US)
1.971; 135 Testud (Fr) 1.685; 14 Grat (Ger)
1.975; 10 C Martinez (Sp) 2.925; 11 A Huber (Ger) 2.722; 12 M J Fernandez (US)
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1.973; 13 Grat (Ger)
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1.974; 13 Grat (Ger)
1.975; 13 Grat (Ger)
1.

TODAY'S NUMBER

tion from the Premiership.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football (7.45 unless stated) UEFA CUP SECOND ROUND FIRST LEG

peo v Aston Villa (8.30) urg v Liverpool (8.0)— PC Straebourg v Liverpool (8.0)
Other ties: Sparisk Museco (8m) v Real Velecinit; Rest Veligograf (Rus) v Lazio (8); ASF Auchus (Den's Piesenite Erechado (Neifu; Sportung Brage (Por) v Dyreson Table (George: Infra Brucheses (Ren) v VI. Bochum; (Geor; Shanab Buchares (Porn) v Bestia (Pr); Mez (Pr) v Nadurule SC (Ger; Alex Amsterdam (Neifu) v Udnese (81); Auchum (Pr) v OFI Insiden (97); Infra Man (8) v Olympiqua Lyon (Pr); Scheles O4 (Ger) v Andertent (Be); Alestoe Machild (Sp) v PACK Saloria (Gr).
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

etsmoun v helf Utd v Stockpor locked v Swindr

12.7

Participants

SECOND DIVISION Blackpool v Charterfald (7.30)

interior v Doncaster

orlington v Cardill (7.30)

orlington v Cardill (7.30)

orlington v Palarborough (7.30)

orlington v Note Couchy

orlington v Note Couchy

orlington v Checker (7.30)

Scurborough v Cheater (7.30)
Scunitorpe v Shreuchury (7.30)
Scunitorpe v Shreuchury (7.30)
Scrousy v Layton Orient
ISTHMAN LEAGUE Premiter Division: Brombey Herbin, Gravesend & N v St Abbent (7.30);
Heroe Brough v Behops Startford (7.30); harding v Hendon (7.30, Pan Division: Termes University of the Control of the Cheater Device Brown Starting v Edgester Devic Baylone Device Starting v Edgester Device Starting of Alleholm v Windows & Edgester Device Brown Starting & Michael v Brown Starting & Michael v Brown Starting & Michael V Brown Country Starting & Michael V Brown V Brown & Edgester Starting & Michael V Brown V Brown & Brown V Brown V Brown & Brown V Brown

ton Rovers.
UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: According on Startley y Barrow; Attriction y Runcorn: Barriber Bridge v Hyde Und: Blyth
Spertane y Batrop Ancidand: Chorley v Lancassis; Gatesley y Attricton Town; Raddelfie Borough y Winston Dun; Phrt Division: Congletion
Dewry I Briton; Eastwood Town y Stockstridge
P.S.; Greet Harwood Town y Fibrion; Gretne y
Ashton Utd: Lispoin Hyd y Metricot; Town; Wind
Alborn y Worldington; Worksop Town y Bredm Alborn y Worldington; Worksop Town y Bred-

League Cup Bret round first leg: St Leonards Standardt V Eith & Belvedere. Statutori V Erth & Belvedere.
FA UNERO TROPHY First round qualifying replays: Hindley Und V Stafford Rangers; Bi-stan V Pagel Rangers, Reddish Utd v Eastwood Rown, Dephalem V Belper Town; Leigh PMIV Staffalla; Hendon V Heseni. Town: UNKINDO. ARMOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: R T M Newcastle v South Smilts: Dunston Federation v Stockport, Morpeth Town v Seetem Red Start, James Roading v Crock

First Division: R T M Newcastle v South Smittly Duraston Reduction v Southour Mopeth Town v Seetern Rad Star; Jerow Roofing v Crook Town, Smitton v Billingham Town JMLSPORT: JMNTED COUNTIES LEAGUE Primiler Division: Bourne v Boston, Knool-out Copt. Eynesbury V Poden Newport Pagnal v Lorg Buckly Starloid v St Neets Wootton v Coper-hoe Ford Sports v Buckingham. INTERLINE ENPIRESS Malaine Administration of Cheseloum v Knyperaley Victoria.

JENISON EASTERN LEAGUE CUP: Bury Town v Lowestoit feer, Des Town v Havertill Rovers; Ely City v Sterway Plovers; Gorleston v Cornard Utd; Harreldon & Platieston v Histori, March Rown Utd v Swedfram Town; Midderhall Town v Heidleigh Utd; Norwich United v Brightingeas Utd; Sudbury Wanderers v Great Vernacht Sown; Sacobury Wanderers v Great Vernacht Sown; Victorian; Woodbridge Town v Wrodmen; Woodbridge Town v Carribridge City Text). JEWRON WESSEX LEAGUE First Division: Aic Totton v Anderer; Gosport Borough Christopuch; Portsmouth RN v Aerostri tures; Wintborne Town v Eastfeigh NORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE FIRST DI-

Newcastle Town v St Helene Town, Floodille Tro-phy: Atherion Collerias + Holler Citi Boys, Flams-bottom Utd v Mossley. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pro (Person Count les east Leacue Pris Division: Amthorps Waters v Pictering Amold Youn & North Fentloy United; Mak-N v Liversador, Ostati Abton & Daneby Westformed Kent League First Division Datal Even v Eith Even; Favorsham Even v Hytha Lint; Folkastona Invitos a Whitesable Town; Nu-bridge Water v Thamsemend Town. SCREWPOX DERECT LEAGUE Premier Divisions.

Elmore v Bidelord; Westbury Uto v Calne Town FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP CLUSTON-FINES Shelbourne y Litterick PC. FA YOUTH CUP Third Qualitying round St.Al-bane City v Erith & Beheders AYON INSURANCE COMBINATION FIRE DIristor: Arstnel v Brighton (20). Rugby Union

CLUB MATCH: Northernoton v Oxford Link 17302 Basketball EUROCUP: Edde London Towers v Rhandorf

Other sports TEXAS: Taurion: Girobank Tour event

The buy-outs that First Division Sunderland football club have rejected since their flotation on the Stock Market 10 months' acc. The latest was a £17m takeover bid from a local businessmen acting on behalf of Albert Scardino, an American multi-millionaire, Sunderland shares, initially priced at £5.85, rising to £7.50. have dropped to £3.20 as a result of last season's relega-

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GOLF

Young again go free at the Open

Juniors will again be admitted free to the Open Championship next year at Royal Birkdale. The success of the scheme when it was introduced for this year's Open at Royal Troon. which saw the number of under-18s attending the championship more than double, has encouraged the Royal & Ancient 10 extend its policy of reduced tickets for youngsters.

Next year all under-16s will be admitted free, while a new youths' ticket for 16 to 21year-olds will cost only £10 during the championship and £4 on practice days.

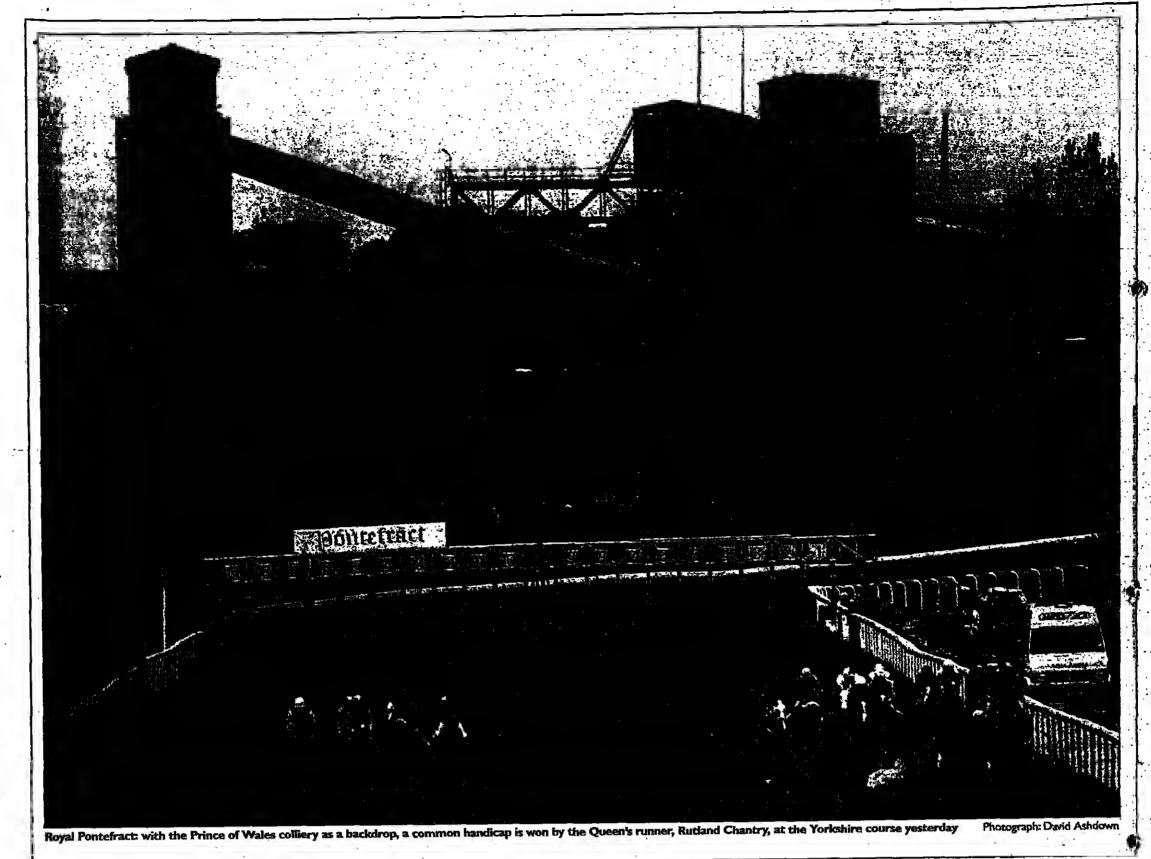
"We identified an anomaly in ticket prices where under-18s were given free entry but over-18s had to pay the full price," said David Hill, secretary of the R&A's championship committee. "This seemed to us to be unfair and so we have introduced the youths' ticket."

The R&A took the lead this year to encourage youngsters to attend one of the world's top sporting events free of charge. They estimated over 28,000 juniors were at Royal Troon, as opposed to previous averages of 12,000.

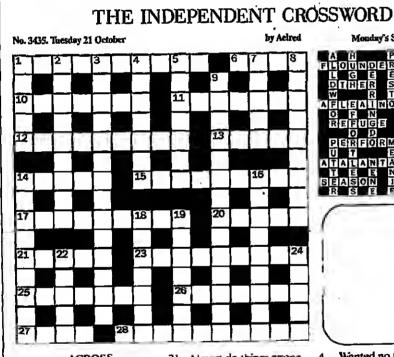
Anyone applying for free tickets should do so to the R&A, accompanying their application with a letter of identification from a school or golf club, or they can be admitted on the day with a "responsible

While general ticket prices were left at 1996 levels for this year, at Birkdale the daily admission price will rise slightly to £25, but season tickets offering discounts of nearly 50 per cent can be obtained by applying before 31 January 1998.

- Andy Farrell



'A country which picked its players on a rota basis, instead of that of the best team available, would be considered mad' - Alan Watkins, page 30



- after word of deference
- 6 Cut end off key (4)
 10 Choose one unit of heat and of light (7)
 11 Material seems good to

- Skilful creation carrying oxygen to one? Could be
- 15 Man carrying equivalent of a dollar is odd (9) American, a marine,
- keeps benefit back, which is sensational (9) Long growths of hair will provide shade (5)

26

- DOWN Snap when agitated in Post Office (5) Church & state sup-
- Support one in charge of Spanish car? Not this person (4-4,6)
- taking note of ordinary hody (7) Material that could stretch from the last ice clothes (5) Perhaps still life paintings I suppress (9) 25 Cheers 1 give to last bats-men? (4-3)
- age (7)
 Beast of burden coming
 up a London street (5)
 Thrills you don't pay for
 but which leature in soccer matches (4.5) I go wrong in tip for cookgallery (7)
 Be too belligerent perhaps 27 Tear off showing speed (4)
 and fail to stop in time (9) 28 Who could refer to such One seen at car boot sale? neat decent sorts? (10)
 - (7,7)
 - Woman spent a term in old school (4.5)
 To have things shaken up is a modern doing (9)
 Leave a sash in place (7)
 Fix English deported (7)

Wanted no tails to be seen

in agreeable heavenly

- Glad time becomes dim
- (5) Leave without having to take a meal (5)

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Villa relying on Collymore to find his touch in Basque country

Since his move from Liverpool, Aston Villa's Stan Collymore, has saved his best displays for Europe. His manager, Brian Little, is in need of another one tonight says Phil Show.

Stan Collymore may be no saint, but "The Cathedral", as Athletic Bilbao's San Mames stadium is known, could be just the stage for the £7m striker to start answering Aston Villa's

prayers tonight. Brian Little is confident that it will be. The Villa manager, looking anything but beleaguered despite a turbulent descent into Spain, pledged to restore Collymore to his side for the first leg of their Uefa Cup second-round tie even though

he began a three-match do-

Collymore, who has scored claret and blue against Bordeaux in the previous round. Little now hopes that the quasi-religious fervour for which this bastion of

Basque pride is renowned can help to fire up his record signing in similar fashion. "Bilbao will be concerned about Stan, which is important for us," he said. "While he has missed a few chances - he could have had a goal every other game - we've got to keep en-

couraging him and get him back to his one-in-two career ratio." Contrary to the complaints of some Villa fans, who have criticised Collymore's work rate. Little feels be may have been trying too hard to impress since arriving from Liverpool, "Players need to feel good but Stan has hocked a hit worried. He hasn't been as relaxed as he should be.

from Peter Withe and Tony McAndrew confirm the impression created by their home and away victories over Sampdoria. Technically good, they are also capable of playing with a verve that reflects their English origins (the club were formed by itinerant workers from Wearside; hence the an-

glicised name and the red-andwhite stripes à la Sunderland). "The first game Peter saw was a derby with Sociedad which was like similar occasions in England. Fast and furious. people pressing and closing each other down quickly. When he watched them away they were far more low key, so I'll be interested to hear from Tony how they approached Saturday's draw with Deportivo."

Asked whether a British-style tempo might be more to Villa's in our net in others. So we've got to concentrate for 90 minutes and be at our best, then see what they have to offer. If we're as careless as we have been, it'll be a hard

His priority is a result close enough to convince a full house at Villa Park a fortnight hence that they can take the tie. A repeat of the 1-1 draw they earned at Bilbao in the same competition 20 years ago, when Little and Andy Gray filled the roles

night's work."

now earmarked for Collymore and Dwight Yorke, would more than suffice. Little said he would make one change from the team which drew 0-0 in Bordeaux, the smart money being on Mark Draper for

Sasa Curcic. There will be no Serbs in the home line-up nor even, strictly speaking, any Spaniards. The coach's job at Bilbao liking, Little replied: "We're so is often held by foreigners-Ron-

mestic suspension on Saturday. sometimes that can affect you." Jekyll and Hyde right pow, it's un-nie Allen and Howard Kendall Villa have had Bilbao true. We're playing well some are among the Frenchman Luis watched three times. The reports games, then throwing three goals Fernandez's predecessors - yet the players must be basque. Fernandez has also spent

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heavily, paying Real Betis £9ng to bring the one-time Man () chester United target Roberto Rios home, though with only slightly more success than Villa so far. Five of their seven League fixtures have been drawn and only Atletico Madrid, conquerors of Leicester, beaten.

Nevertheless, civic self-esteem is high after the global fanfare for the weekend opening of the Guggenheim museum. For a mere 14,000m pesetas (£60m), a dour, industrial city has ac-Sydney Opera House look like the Birmingham Bull Ring. quired a landmark to make the

Critics argue that Bilbao has had to buy an international reputation. As Villa may discover at their peril. Athletic huilt that long ago.

Little needs lift, page 30

Benfica linked with move for Strachan

Coventry City could come under pressure from Benfica to part with their manager. Gordon Strachan.

Valea Vededo, who is the favourite to be elected as president of the Lisbon club, has named Strachan as the man he wants to be the coach. The former Scotland international impressed Vededo by keeping Coventry in the Premiership last season. If elected today, Vededo is understood to want to

make immediate contact with Highfield Road, "Gordon Strachan would be my first option as the coach to lead Benfica into the future." he said.

Newcastle have promised their manager, Kenny Dalglish, cash for more players, even though the club's wage hill has risen sharply. Total salaries of players and coaching staff increased by more than £4m last year, according to the club's annual report released yesterday.

The arrival of players, like Alan Shearer, as well as Dalglish and a new backroom team, has seen wage costs reach new heights. Newcastle now spend £15.4m a year on wages for their staff of 200, having spent £10.2m the year before. Newcastle ple's chairman, Sir Terence Harrison, says in the report: "Of

the increase, £4.1m relates di-

rectly to footballing personnel." The Tyneside club have made an operating profit before

tax of £8.3m, compared to a loss of £23.6m the year before - the loss mostly due to Shearer's £15m transfer and purchase of other players.

Harrison said Dalglish would continue to be given money "for selective squad strengthening", but the report added that transfers would be funded through profits alone. More financial news yester-

day centred on Chelsea and the disclosure that the Harrods own-

er, Mohamed Al-Fayed, attempted to acquire a majority stake at Stamford Bridge before his takeover of Fulham. The bid got as far as "informal talks". :

England's campaign to host the 2006 World Cup was lifter yesterday by a £3m award to the Football Association from the English Sports Council. The handout is likely to provide a third of the cost of the bid.

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